FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT & SALT

U.S., UK, USSR Delegations to Test Ban Talks Meet in Geneva	AA	1	1/A6
'Fine Words' Must Yield to Action on Disarmament Issues [Editorial in ZA Rubezhom No 5]	AA	1	1/A6

CSCE/MBFR

West Causing Serious Difficulties for Belgrade Draft	BB	1	1/A9
U.S. Seeks To Undermine Detente [Nikolayev]	BB	1	1/A9
E. European Delegates Comment	BB	2	1/A10

GENERAL

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' [Druzhinin, Nekrasov, Mikhaylov]	A	1	1/A11
Disarmament Negotiations	A	1	1/A11
Europe's Economic, Political Crisis	A	4	1/A14
Middle East Situation	A	6	1/B2
Kiprianou Statement	A	7	1/B3
Western Intelligence Disinformation Campaign	A	7	1/B3

UNITED STATES

Material on Egyptian President As-Sadat's U.S. Visit	B	1	1/B5
Arrival in Washington [Yegorov]	B	1	1/B5
U.S. 'Plan'	B	1	1/B5
U.S. Fighters	B	2	1/B6
No 'Dramatic Breakthrough' Expected [Zinovyeva]	B	3	1/B7
Press Optimism 'Unjustified'	B	4	1/B8
Further Material on Ponomarev Delegation's U.S. Visit	B	5	1/B9
Welcomed by 'Realists' [Sturua in IZVESTIYA 1 Feb]	B	5	1/B9
Trip Called 'Useful' [Zhukov]	B	6	1/B10
Media Coverage [Zorin]	B	8	1/B12
Addition to Item on Return	B	9	1/B13
Text of PRAVDA Item on U.S. Interference in Europe [Korionov, 2 Feb]	B	10	1/B14

CHINA

Egyptian Envoy Visits China; PRC Supports Separate Deal	C	1	1/C3
Peking Foreign Policy Creates Chaos, Seeks Confrontation [Kornilov in OGONEK]	C	1	1/C3

EAST EUROPE

Ceausescu Receives Katushev, Receives Brezhnev Message D 1 1/C5
Economic Commission Meets D 1 1/C5
Chnoupek: Economic Disarmament Talks Vital to Detente D 2 1/C6
CPCZ Officials Study CPSU Experience in Party Work D 2 1/C6
[PRAVDA 2 Feb]
'Moscow Days' End in Berlin; Grishin Leads Soviet Group D 3 1/C7
Bulgaria Awards Kulakov Georgi Dimitrov Award D 3 1/C7

WEST EUROPE & CANADA

Suspension of Talks Further Undermines DC Position E 1 1/C8
[PRAVDA 2 Feb]
French Socialists Demand Greater Foreign Policy Role E 1 1/C8
[NOVOYE VREMYA]
Brandt Remarks on Detente, Neutron Bomb Cited E 3 1/C10
New FRG Ministers Named Following Political Scandal E 3 1/C10
Media Comments on Scandal E 4 1/C11
FRG Institute Warns U.S. Against Dropping Dollar Rate E 4 1/C11
Portuguese Public Seeks End to Reactionary Measures E 5 1/C12
[Konstantinov]
'Restructuring' Regime Goal of Spanish Communists E 5 1/C12
[Babkin in SELSKAYA ZHIZN 1 Feb]
Finnish Center Party Delegation Visits Moscow, Armenia E 6 1/C13
[PRAVDA 1 Feb]
Soviet-Swedish Societies' Cooperation Plan Signed E 6 1/C13

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

PDRY Premier, Delegation Meet With Soviet Officials, End Visit F 1 1/C14
Brezhnev Meets Premier F 1 1/C14
Kosygin, Gromyko Meet Counterparts F 2 1/D1
Ustinov Talks With Premier F 2 1/D1
Seen Off by Kosygin, Others F 2 1/D1
Premier's Statement to TASS F 3 1/D2
Soviet-PDRY Communique F 3 1/D2
Algiers Conference Issues Resolution on Mideast, Africa F 6 1/D5
'New Wafd' Party Formed in Egypt; Takes Reactionary Stance F 7 1/D6

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Additional Material on Somalia-Ethiopia Conflict H 1 1/D7
Western Arms Aid [Chernukha] H 1 1/D7
Captured Tank H 1 1/D7
Ethiopian Protest Meetings H 2 1/D8
Reports of EEC Aid H 2 1/D8
'Anti-Sovietism' of Ivory Coast President Criticized H 3 1/D9
[Afanasyev in ZA RUBEZHOM No 5]
Anniversary of Angolan Independence Struggle Noted H 4 1/D10
[Raikerus]
Angolan Defense Ministry Warns 'Provocateurs' H 5 1/D11
[Volkov in PRAVDA 2 Feb]
Remarks by Pretoria's Bantu Affairs Minister 'Demagogic' H 6 1/D12
[Bokhonko]
Somara Machel Addresses Mozambique Workers on Party H 6 1/D12

SOUTH ASIA

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Assumes Presidential Duties J 1 1/D13
Indira Gandhi's Group To Participate in Elections J 1 1/D13
Indian CP Leader Gupta Urges Left, Democratic Unity J 1 1/D13
[PRAVDA 31 Jan]

INDOCHINA

SRV Statements Reject U.S. Accusations Against Envoy L 1 1/D14
VNA Denial of U.S. Allegations About Spies Cited L 2 1/E1
28th Anniversary of SRV-USSR Relations Noted L 2 1/E1
[Grammatikov]

NORTHEAST ASIA

Alarming Military Trends Becoming Prominent in Japan M 1 1/E2
[Krasin in PRAVDA 1 Feb]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Academician Sedov: Cosmos-954 May Have Been in Collision U 1 1/E4
Details of Salyut-6 Refueling From Progress-1 Given U 3 1/E6
'Brilliant Engineering Operation' [Zheleznov] U 3 1/E6
Report on Cosmonauts U 4 1/E7
Space Complex Trajectory Corrected U 4 1/E7
Progress-1 Separates From Salyut-6 U 5 1/E8

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

'Berezina' Exercise Begins in Belorussia; Foreign Observers Present V 1 1/E9
First Manuevers Completed V 1 1/E9
Troops Greeted [Krutov] V 1 1/E9
Foreign Observers Arrive V 1 1/E9

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U.S., UK, USSR DELEGATIONS TO TEST BAN TALKS MEET IN GENEVA

LD061108Y Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 6, TASS--The delegations of the USSR, the United States and Britain today held a meeting at the current negotiations aimed at elaborating a treaty on full and universal prohibition of nuclear weapon tests.

'FINE WORDS' MUST YIELD TO ACTION ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES

LD031601Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 5, Signed to Press 26 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Disarmament Is the Focus of Attention"]

[Excerpt] A Principled Course

It is common knowledge that each step toward development of Soviet-U.S. relations on a mutually advantageous, equitable basis serves not only the interests of the Soviet and American peoples, but also those of all people on earth. This is natural, since the USSR and the United States, which have the greatest economic and military potentials at their disposal, held a special, heightened responsibility in the very important matter of preventing war and developing cooperation, which affects the future and even the very existence of mankind. It is for this reason that the search for ways to develop bilateral relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence and constantly strengthening the base of detente is so important. An important role in this process belongs to the parliaments which are invested with supreme legislative power. In this connection it is impossible not to express satisfaction with the present official visit to the United States by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation at the invitation of the U.S. Congress. As a new step in developing the links initiated in 1974, this visit has provided the opportunity for Soviet parliamentarians to conduct thorough discussions in the Congress and which, from the Soviet viewpoint, are subordinated to the following chief aim to promote mutual understanding and the improvement of relations between the two countries.

Since 1972, when a positive shift came about in the relations between the two great powers, the USSR and the United States have signed 61 interstate documents which regulate contacts in various spheres. They have recognized peaceful coexistence as the sole basis for their mutual relations and signed an agreement on preventing nuclear war and also a number of documents on the limitation of strategic arms. Adhering firmly to the spirit and letter of all the agreements concluded, the Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that a course toward improved Soviet-U.S. relations is a long-term and principled policy. "Life itself demands that long-term considerations dictated by a concern for peace should be decisive in Soviet-U.S. relations. We adhere to this line and this is what we expect in response. We are not lacking in readiness to continue the development of relations begun with the United States on the basis of equality and mutual respect," L. I. Brezhnev stressed in his report "The Great October Revolution and the Progress of Mankind."

The U.S. leaders are also declaring their desire to achieve new agreements with the Soviet Union. But the fine words in favor of peace that are ringing out in Washington are by no means an obstacle to the activity of the military-industrial complex, which is trying to narrow the basis of detente and even to undermine detente and prevent agreements aimed at prohibiting the deployment of new types of weapons and reducing the arsenals which already exist. [paragraph continues]

It was precisely under the influence of the opponents of detente that the trade agreement which has been signed did not enter into force and, as a result, instead of increasing substantially, commodity turnover last year fell to $2 billion from its 1976 level of $2.9 billion. U.S. military factories continue to produce new missiles, aircraft, surface ships and submarines, and increasingly large sums are being allocated for these purposes. The draft federal budget for fiscal 1979 (which begins on 1 October) proposed by President J. Carter provides for an increase in military expenditure to $128.4 billion as against $116.7 in the current fiscal year. But even this figure does not include expenditure on military research carried out under other departments and bodies, although in the Department of Energy alone these expenditures amount to $2.8 billion, appropriations for the creation of the neutron bomb being concealed under the heading of "public works."

The United States is making intensive efforts to impose this bomb--with which it is hoped to threaten the Soviet Union--on its NATO allies, despite massive opposition from the peoples. The deployment of this bomb would greatly increase the likelihood of an outbreak of nuclear conflict and would lead to a new and very dangerous stage in the arms race. It is precisely for this reason that L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, proposed to the West a mutual renunciation of the production of the neutron bomb and, moreover, an agreement to reduce all stocks of nuclear weapons. Yet another recent Soviet initiative (and it will be recalled that since World War II the Soviet Union has, in all, submitted 103 proposals aimed at curbing the arms race, banning nuclear weapons, reducing military budgets and disarmament) concerned ending all nuclear weapon tests and introducing a moratorium on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It creates favorable conditions for the successful completion of the talks resumed this week in Geneva between delegations of the USSR, the United States and Britain, and makes it possible to rapidly and efficiently draw up the specific provisions of a treaty on the total prohibition of nuclear weapon tests.

A Rebuff to the "Hawks"

The opponents of detente--figures from the military-industrial complex and the politicians who serve them--are not fastidious in their choice of means with which to erect obstacles on the paths leading toward arms limitation, including the limitation of nuclear arms; they build these obstacles out of the cold war ice-floes which here and there have still not melted away completely. The allegation about a "danger" stemming from the Soviet Union in view of our country's "excessive buildup" of its military might in order to achieve military superiority and to "make a first strike" serves as one of the most hackneyed "arguments" for the opponents of detente, though it is one they use endlessly. The slandermongers have repeatedly been convincingly rebuffed insofar as the USSR's efforts are aimed at insurng that matters do not reach the point of a first strike, or a second strike or nuclear war at all. The Soviet Union approaches the conclusion of agreements with the United States from positions of equality and identical security for both sides.

Sober-minded Western figures, in particular those in the United States, realize this very well. This is why, for example, more and more business people are advocating the expansion of Soviet-U.S. trade and economic cooperation, stressing that trade is the best ambassador. This is why three-fifths of Americans, when questioned in public opinion pools, favor continued detente and agreements with the USSR on the limitation of the arms race. [paragraph continues]

The well-known retired U.S. diplomat Charles Yost, criticized the propaganda campaign which the so-called "Committee on the Present Danger"--of which well known "hawks" are members--is waging against the Soviet-U.S. agreement currently being drawn up on the limitation of strategic offensive arms, under the pretext that it will merely incur a "new threat" for the United States. Yost emphasizes in an article published in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: There is indeed a "present danger," but not where the opponents of detente from this committee are seeking it. It lurks in the fact that "a nuclear war could well start through the gradual escalation of a conventional military of political conflict," as long as nuclear weapons and mistrust are preserved. A "present danger" also lurks in the fact that a "SALT-II" agreement may not be concluded or, if it is concluded, may not be ratified by the Senate"--that is, it could be wrecked by the U.S. side. Meanwhile, the "supreme interests of the two countries dictate that this agreement should be concluded and observed."

As attested by the European conference of young people and students on problems of disarmament, which took place in Budapest this week, the conference of the American Catholic movement in defense of peace, a meeting of disarmament experts in Warsaw, the active collection of signatures in the Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, the United States, Czechoslovakia and many other countries for a petition on prohibiting the neutron bomb, and the preparation for the all-British assembly for disarmament and peace, the broadest sections of the world public actively advocate the destruction of the arsenals of death. The working document distributed on Monday by the preparatory committee for convening a special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament also indicates this. This is an unequivocal reminder to those who are fond merely of discoursing on their advocacy of peace and the idea of limiting the arms race that it has long been time to move on from talk and negotiations to specific steps--which is what the Soviet Union is insisting on.

WEST CAUSING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR BELGRADE DRAFT

LD031748Y Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, February 3, TASS--Work for drafting of a final document is continuing in the editorial groups of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the Conference on European Security and Cooperation. Understanding has been practically reached that the next meeting of the Belgrade type will be held in 1980 in Madrid. Understanding has also been reached to convene a meeting of experts to work out a generally acceptable method of peaceful settlement of disputes between states and for preparing a European "scientific forum".

It has become known that the drafting of other parts of the final document meets with serious difficulties. Delegations of the USA and a number of other Western countries are making attempts in the course of editorial work to revise the contents of the final act of the all-European conference, which was signed by heads of state and government in Helsinki in 1975. Such attempts at a revision meet with a resolute rebuff from representatives of the socialist country. Everything that has been placed on record in the final act, which was signed by the top leaders of our countries, head of the USSR delegation Yuliy Vorontsov told a plenary meeting, is of tremendous importance at present and will remain as important in the future. The final act with its weighed balance of interests is a common property of all who come out for detente. It constitutes a long-term programme of actions by states for strengthening security and developing cooperation in Europe.

U.S. Seeks To Undermine Detente

LD042320Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Boris Nikolayev commentary]

[Text] Belgrade--Intensive work has been going on for almost 3 weeks in the Sava Palace on drawing up a draft final document. In accordance with the procedure established previously in Helsinki, all decisions at the Belgrade forum are adopted on the condition that they are approved by all 35 participants. The complexity of producing a draft final document, which must be carefully balanced and acceptable to all participants in the meeting, is therefore understandable.

Constructive work at the meeting, however, just as in the previous stage, is being seriously hindered by the position adopted by the delegation of the United States and a number of its NATO allies. In his speeches, which are permeated with a spirit of psychological warfare, U.S. representative Goldberg is continually making new provocations aimed at distorting the basic meaning and chief trends in the process of detente in Europe--a process which was officially approved in Helsinki by the heads of state and government of 35 countries.

No one doubts that the main direction in the multilateral process of detente is toward the prevention of the threat of thermonuclear war, eliminating the arms race and mutually advantageous cooperation among all participating states in various spheres. In was in this spirit that the heads of delegations of the majority of countries spoke out when the final act was signed in the Finnish capital in 1975.

And what now? The head of the U.S. delegation is now trying to assure everyone at the Sava center that the Belgrade meeting is not the place where problems of security and cooperation in Europe should be discussed.

In the opinion of the U.S. delegate, the meaning of both the Belgrade meeting and the whole process which was started in Helsinki should come down to just one thing: granting the United States the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist countries. There can be no doubt that this position of the U.S. delegation is a straightforward revision of the spirit and letter of the final act. The progress of the Belgrade meeting shows clearly that the U.S. delegation intends to hinder the adoption of most important decisions in Belgrade and is trying to undermine the true content of the historic process of detente in Europe which was begun in 1975. Naturally the responsibility for the consequences of such a policy lies fully with the U.S. delegation.

It should be noted, however, that the negative postion of the U.S. delegation does not enjoy the support of European public opinion, which views the process begun in Helsinki as the only possible way toward peace and progress on our continent.

E. European Delegates Comment

LD042146Y Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

["Consolidation of Security Is the Main Thing"--TASS headline]

[Text] Belgrade, February 4, TASS--Bulgaria's delegation at the Belgrade meeting of representatives of states, participants in the European Security and Cooperation Conference, suggested that the final document of the forum should indicate that it is in favour of considering the possibility of conclusion of a treaty on non-use of nuclear weapons in a first strike by the states represented in Belgrade. Bulgaria's delegation also suggested that this document should point to the importance of achieving an arrangement not to expand the opposing military and political groupings and alliances in Europe. As is known, proposals to this effect are contained in the Soviet platform of actions aimed at consolidating military detente in Europe.

Supporting these proposals, the GDR representative suggested to record in the final document as a supplement to these proposals that mutual reunciation of the production of neutron nuclear charges would also help avert a threat of nuclear war and lessen military confrontation in Europe. He stressed that the neutron bomb is an aggressive offensive weapon aimed expressly at destruction of humans. It creates a danger for all states and, particularly, for the GDR which is situated close to the countries in which the United States intends to deploy neutron bombs.

The head of the USSR delegation Yuliy Vorontsov said that consolidation of security and expansion of cooperation in Europe was and remains the main trend of the many-faceted process that was started in Helsinki. The questions of security in Europe are ever more important since the arms race is continued on a growing scale. This trend is becoming ever more dangerous as ever more lethal means of warfare emerge. To stop this process, to prevent Europe from sliding to a nuclear disaster through the logics of building up military arsenals--such is the main task now and the Belgrade meeting cannot keep apart from efforts to solve it.

Pointing to a number of important initiatives of socialist, neutral and non-aligned countries aimed at consolidation of security and restriction of the arms race, the Soviet representative criticized the delegations of the United States and a number of other Western countries that continue hampering discussion of disarmament questions at the Belgrade meeting.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD051652Y Moscow International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Weekly "International Observers Roundtable" with Aleksandr Druzhinin, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio; Vadim Nekrasov, political observer of KOMMUNIST; and Mikhail Mikhaylov, international observer of IZVESTIYA]

Disarmament Negotiations

[Text] [Druzhinin] Hello, Comrades, We would like to start the review of the past week with those events which are connected with the solution of a current key problem--the problem of disarmament. We frequently say that disarmament is the order of the times without perhaps completely realizing the very profound meaning of that phrase. Without disarmament no single basic problem of current international development can be cardinally resolved. Disarmament is the concrete content of detente. Disarmament guarantees that because of someone's mistake or evil design the world will not be plunged into a military catastrophe. Unless it frees itself from the heavy burden of the arms race, mankind cannot count on genuine economic prosperity.

During the past week the 1978 disarmament negotiating season as some journalists call it, opened. For the first time this year the Disarmament Committee, which includes representatives from 31 countries, met in Geneva. Also in Geneva--that traditional international conference site--there was a new meeting of the Soviet and U.S. delegations to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. In Vienna the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe have resumed. What are the basic problems and tne tasks facing these forums? I would like to put this question to Vadim Mikolayevich Nekrasov, a participant in our talk today:

[Nekrasov] Both at the talks which you mentioned and also at other international bodies everywhere Soviet proposals, as a rule, are at the center of attention and form the basis of the negotiations. One can name some of these proposals which are at present on the negotiating table and which have already become the subject of discussion. There are our proposals on the total and universal banning of nuclear weapons tests; on the banning of chemical weapons; on the banning of the development and production of new types and systems of mass-destruction; and a number of other proposals. The Soviet Union has long expressed its principled position on all these matters: The most radical and effective means of averting nuclear war would be the total elimination of nuclear weapons. At present our country confirms its readiness to sit down at the negotiating table at any time with all other nuclear powers to examine the huge problem of nuclear disarmament and to work out together specific ways to solve it. However, there have been no such talks as yet, and one cannot sit back with folded arms. In this regard, as the Soviet Union says, any steps are good as long as they draw us closer--gradually, maybe, but undeviatingly--to the total elimination of the danger of nuclear conflict. A useful step in this direction could be the impelemntation of the proposal made by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in his report entitled "The Great October Revolution and Mankind's Progress." In that report he said: We want to substantially reduce and later eliminate the threat of nuclear war--the most formidable danger to mankind.

The essence of this new, important Soviet proposal about which I am speaking is that the nuclear powers should reach agreement on the simultaneous cessation by all states of the production of nuclear weapons of any type--whether atomic and hydrogen or this very newest neutron type--and accept the commitment to begin reducing their existing stockpiles of such weapons, advancing gradually to complete elimination. As is well-known, the Western powers have thus far been silent on this Soviet proposal, although it has been 3 months since it was submitted. However, they will not be able to remain silent.

Here in Geneva in the same committee there will be a discussion of a draft treaty on the total and universal banning of nuclear tests--a draft whose discussion began at the prededing session. This is also our initiative. There will also be discussion of the proposal made by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on the mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons. Such is our program in the disarmament committee. It is aimed at solving very important matters, the solution of which would help to at least halt the ruinous race and help to begin reducing or--as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said--to start a downturn in the arms curve. It is clear that a struggle will develop in Geneva over these matters. This business will not be smooth and easy. The negotiations will be difficult. Obviously the same thing must be said about the talks which have been resumed in Vienna, where 19 states are discussing questions concerning the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. This will be, as diplomatic circles put it, the 14th round of the talks. These talks began exactly 5 years ago. If you remember, the preliminary stage of the talks, where agreement was reached on the agenda and general principles, took just about 6 months. But since then, for 4 1/2 years and over 150 plenary meetings, these talks have been marking time and have been unable to make any headway.

[Mikhaylov] Vadim Nikolayevich, in this regard the question really arises as to whether the West is using these talks as a blind, since it is not responding positively to a single proposal from the socialist countries. At this same time and under cover of slander about an imaginary Soviet threat, Western Europe and the United States, within the NATO framework and outside it, have been building up their military potential. In particular there has been the commotion over the new barbaric weapon--the neutron bomb.

[Nekrasov] There is no doubt, Mikhail Aleksandrovich, that certain circles would like to use these talks in precisely that way. The point is that from the very outset the Soviet Union and other socialist states went to Vienna with a comprehensive and realistic plan for an equal security for all the parties. In the course of the talks our countries took into account the standpoint of the partners and came up with compromise proposals. I would like to remind you of the great important that would be attacked to the adoption of one of our interim proposals, such as that on freezing the level of armed forces at the level they had reached by the start of the talks and not increasing them before the end of the talks. Alas, this did not come about. The West does not want to recognize what is obvious--that the existing equality between the two sides in Europe creates a stable basis--and is trying to secure advantages for itself. We can see how NATO's forces are being built up. As you know, the decision has been made to increase the military expenditure of the member-countries of that bloc by 3 percent each year.

The American forces on West European soil are being increased. Now a plan is being proposed to deploy the neutron bomb in Western Europe. Pay attention to this calculation which was made by progressive Western publicists: Had the Soviet proposals--the proposals of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries--been adopted, the level of armed forces and armaments in Western Europe today would be 17 percent lower than at present.

Finally, the third matter which has been touched upon here are the Soviet-American talks on limiting strategic armaments. Well, one must say that these talks are more confidential since they are the least reported in the press, and it is difficult to follow their progress from the sidelines. From official reports of the two sides--both our side and the American side--we know that some progress has been made at these talks, but we also know that there are still some unresolved matters. Obviously one will have to wait and see how these talks proceed in the near future. It is important, however, to note the close interrelationship which is already discernible between the present stage of these talks and the next stage, which has already been referred to in English as SALT-III. Unlike the present stage, which is dealing with the limitation of these armaments, the third stage will begin their actual physical reduction. For this reason the success of the present stage of talks would be of very great importance for the implementation of genuine nuclear disarmament--well, for beginning it, anyway. However, in the United States, as we are well aware, there are opponents of the achievement of any agreement even at the present stage. I recall the rejoiner given at a press conference in Washington by Comrade Ponomarev, the head of our parliamentary delegation, in which he noted that there is criticism of a Soviet-American agreement on limiting strategic armaments, which does not yet exist and which has not yet been worked out. Opponents who do not wish to have it are criticizing it without seeing it. So I would like to stress once again the important role which public forces play on these issues in our times. The greater the public's knowledge of the essence of these issues, the more active demonstrations there are and the more protests there are, the more the supporters of a continuation of the arms race will have to take account of this public opinion and the more freedom representatives of sensibly minded circles in the West will obtain.

[Druzhinin] During our conversations at the roundtable we have already said more than once that the more energetic the search for ways to disarm, the more active are its opponents. Recent events also give us quite a few examples of such a dangerous activity. An enormous military budget for the next fiscal year has been proposed in the U.S. Congress. The Pentagon is asking for over $128 billion for its own purposes. This is a record sum, the abnegation of the present administration's campaign promises to reduce military expenditures by $5-7 billion. The U.S. militarist circles have now put into motion the following doctrine: More than enough nuclear weapons have been accumulated both in America and in the Soviet Union to destroy the whole world. In the field of conventional weapons, however, the NATO countries are allegedly lagging behind the Warsaw Pact states. Consequently, the North Atlantic bloc ought to increase its nonnuclear deterrent on the European Continent.

This concept is detailed in the annual report of U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, which has just been published. However, whom do the Pentagon men intend to deter, if no one is planning to attack West Europe? The plans for creating the so-called mobile strategic missiles, the cruise missiles, and the B-1 strategic bomber have not been taken off the agenda. There is also talk of the neutron bombs, which the Pentagon plans to deploy primarily in Western Europe.

Our press has already reported how U.S. military circles gave a rough ride to the report by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which says that the creation of the neutron bomb will increase the danger of nuclear war and will have an unfavorable influence on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Understandably, one can only agree with the agency's opinion. The more arms there are in the arsenals and the more complex and sophisticated they are, the more difficult it is to restrain the arms race and to subject this process to some sort of rational basis and to solve the problem of control. Broad circles of the world public understand this well.

Recently in Washington there was a session of the Bureau of the World Peace Council. Representatives of 40 countries gathered in the U.S. capital. The declaration which the bureau presented to UN Secretary General Waldheim contains a decisive appeal for an end to the arms race and for the disallowance of the creation of new types of mass extermination weapons, above all the neutron bomb. It seems to me that the following circumstances must be stressed: The fact that the Bureau of the World Peace Council has for the first time held its meeting on American soil shows indisputably how the public climate in America itself is changing. More and more Americans are coming out against the arms race and are severely criticizing the position of their own government. Here is just one example: Last week it was announced that a broad coalition of public, trade union, religious and women's organizations had been formed in the United States, and its aim is to strive for a reduction in military expenditures. It includes 40 organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, a group of black congressmen, the Union of United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers--which, incidentally, is one of the biggest in the country--the National Council of Churches and so on. Is this not evidence of a change in the consciousness of Americans?

Such changes are also happening in the consciousness of peoples in other countries of the world, particularly in Western Europe, where the public is increasingly turning toward the new, progressive forces on the political scene.

Europe's Economic, Political Crisis

[Mikhaylov] Since we have been talking about Europe, we must say that a very complicated and contradictory process is taking place there. Thus, you see, Western Europe has entered 1978 in the midst of an economic crisis--inflation, unemployment and currency shocks. All this is a fact which is generally recognized. I am not going to quote figures here, but will just recall that the experts of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which embraces 24 industrially developed capitalist countries, are in a very pessimistic mood. Their annual report says that instability is increasing in the economy of the West--this is also the forecast for 1978--and that at the same time the population's faith in the governments' ability to change the situation is disappearing.

This explains why, in those countries of Western Europe which are experiencing government crises, these prove to be so drawn out and so difficult to resolve. Thus it was in the Netherlands and in Portugal. The government crisis continues in a major state like Italy and in a tiny one like the Republic of San Marino. Moreover, the masses' aspirations for radical changes are being manifested not only in these states but also in Spain, where the post-Franco era has begun. There are heated discussions in France, where political life is increasingly determined by the forthcoming March parliamentary elections. The confrontation between the British Labor Party and the Conservatives, and the main thing--the class struggle of Great Britain's working people--is intensifying.

[Nekrasov] I would like to note one interesting fact, Mikhail Aleksandrovich: To be precise, in the countries where the crisis has overtaken the social democratic governments then in power, the rightwing forces feel much more assured than in those countries where the rightwing forces were in power during the crisis period. This is a characteristic nuance between the situations in various countries, and it creates an open-field situation on the continent.

[Mikhaylov] We can see that the situations in these countries which we have named are not synonymous, but it is by no means coincidental that the beginning of 1978 has been filled with stormy events in Western Europe.

Let us turn to one statement: We, the author says, live at a time when the most far-reaching and intensive changes in the entire history of the world are taking place. Another quote from the same source: An unprecedented political awakening is occurring, and the awareness of the need for social justice is growing. Who says this? It is admitted with great reluctance that this is Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the President of the United States and one of the initiators of something which has aroused the indignation of all--from the most progressive circles to a moderate figure like Aubert, head of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is said by one of the initiators of American interference in the internal affairs of West European states, primarily Italy and France, where the possibility, and even the necessity, of the communists' participation in the government has arisen.

Moreover, this same Aubert believes that a coalition government is essential for Italy, and that the participation in it of Communists, as of other political parties, corresponds with the national interests of the Italians. As you know, the rightwing of the Christian Democratic Party readily accepts the American political pressure and is speculating on the threat of economic sanctions by the International Monetary Fund. It is using any means to avoid such a solution to the government crisis. It is doing this despite the clear demands of all democratic parties and even of part--the most sensible part--of the Christian Democrats, the so-called Left Christian Democrats.

I repeat again: Other countries have their own problems. In Portugal a government has been formed. But there are few who consider this a true solution to the crisis since Soares, the leader of the Socialists, who has been reappointed prime minister, has insured himself a majority in the Assembly by moving to the right. He has given ministerial portfolios to representatives of the reactionary Social Democratic Center Party.

Yes, it is very complicated in Western Europe; and is made more so by the interference of external reaction in the internal affairs of certain countries.

And to this must be added the tension forced into political life by right-wing elements, by all sorts of extremists, including neo-Nazis. At the same time it must be taken into consideration that the Christian Democrats have a worldwide union, but the fascists have a black international; that is, they coordinate their actions on an international scale. And yet capitalism shows itself more and more clearly to be a society without a future. The future belongs to the people and to social progress, and the attempts to halt this historical process--and this was the aim of the feverish efforts of the bourgeois academics who had been drawn into politics, recently headed by Kissinger and now by Brzezinski--will in the final analysis prove to be impracticable.

Middle East Situation

[Druzhinin] And now I would like to pass on to the events in another part of the world, in the Near East. Last week in Algiers the leaders of a number of Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization gathered for a summit conference. The agenda included questions of the further consolidation of progressive Arab forces and the consolidation of pan-Arab solidarity in the struggle for a just and peaceful settlement in the Near East.

But at the same time Egyptian President as-Sadat, for whom friendship with Washington is clearly more important than Arab unity in the struggle against the Israeli aggressors, flew across the ocean. The aim of As-Sadat's trip to the United States is clear; a search for mediation in the deal which he would like to conclude with Tel Aviv.

The Egyptian president's dramatic demarches--clearly aimed at winning press attention and earning popularity--have turned out to be an ordinary bluff, the posturing of a publicity-hungry man. After recently breaking off the work of the Egyptian-Israeli military and political committees, as they're called, he has now ordered the military committee to resume work. Meanwhile, Tel Aviv goes on getting its own way, strengthening its positions in the occupied Arab lands. The Western press is now talking about a new Israeli military settlement, which Israel is disguising as an archaeological dig. I would like to ask you, Vadim Nikolayevich, to characterize the latest Near East events.

[Nekrasov] Well, the most important of the events you have mentioned is undoubtedly the Algiers meeting of the group of Arab states and the PLO leadership. The world is already calling that group the front of steadfastness and rejection--rejection of the policy of capitulation to Tel Aviv's pressure which is supported by Washington. The rejection front held its first conference in Tripoli in December, when these states refused to support As-Sadat in his capitulationist acts. Now the aim of the conference is to formulate a concrete platform for their struggle.

Here I would like to point out that the countries of this group have good relations with the socialist states--including the Soviet Union--and rely on the solidarity of those states and their support. Further proof of those relations, and of their continuation and development, was furnished by the visit to the Soviet Union by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani], head of Government of Democratic Yemen and his talks with Soviet leaders--especially the accord on economic and technical cooperation between our countries. During the negotiations the Soviet side emphasized certain points: Namely, that the Soviet Union advocates a comprehensive settlement and opposes separate deals in the Near East; it favors a settlement based on consideration for the just rights of all interested parties--which includes the Arab Palestinian people; and the Soviet Union does not close the door to the Geneva conference on the Near East in which, like the Arab peoples, it sees the path to a just settlement of the Near East problems.

However, regarding the other side--meaning the relationship between Israel and Egypt in which Washington is now actively involved--the line of those states obviously opposes the Geneva conference. The point of their relationship is a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal based on unilateral concessions by Cairo to Israel's aggressive claims, with the possibility of later involving the other Arab states directly participating in the conflict--first Jordan and then Syria--and thus consolidating Israel's dominant position as a pro-imperialist force in the Near East. Thus it must not be said that any real progress can be achieved at the talks between Tel Aviv and Cairo toward solving the Near East problem. What can be achieved is, firstly, very substantial concessions on the Egyptian side and, secondly, the disguising of those concessions.

We can already see some hints in the world press as to the way in which that disguising can be done. Among other things it is being said that a declaration of principles might be adopted, on the basis of which a final settlement could later be achieved. The strange expression "the buffer of time" is being circulated. This "buffer of time" again means that: "Yes, there will be a settlement, but when is still unknown." However, it is unknown because the pro-imperialist circles do not want any settlement which includes the real interests of the Arab people.

Kiprianou Statement

[Druzhinin] To round up our review of Near East events, I would like to say a few words about a country whose geographic situation links it closely with that region: Cyprus. Recently, Spiros Kiprianou was confirmed in his presidential powers, and his first steps in foreign policy indicate that Cyprus is still an important, positive factor in international developments in the troubled Mediterranean region. Kiprianou has spoken in favor of the policy of nonalinement, of detente and international cooperation and of an end to the arms race and the improvement of East-West relations. He emphasizes that the principles of a durable and just solution of the Cyprus problem are to be found in the relevent UN resolutions, which call for an end to foreign interference in Cypriot affairs and the refugees' safe return to their homes. Kiprianou has pointed out that he agrees with the principle of federation for Cyprus--a federation, but not a confederation of the two national groups. He highly values the Soviet Union's support for the Cypriot cause.

Western Intelligence Disinformation

But now I would like to dwell on this: When you study the foreign bourgeois press nowadays, you can't help noticing that the wave of slander and disinformation about the situation in the socialist countries is mounting. Which way, one wonders, is the wind blowing? The answer is not hard to find: Let's recall the recent revelations in the United States about the secret links between the CIA and the mass media. The leading American newspapers and the largest of the mass media organs cooperate with that agency. The CIA organizes the infiltration of all kinds of forgeries and other materials aimed at undermining the process of international cooperation and detente into the airwaves and the newspapers. But does such an alliance of spies and the bourgeois press exist only in the United States?

[Mikhaylov] In other countries, too, the anti-Soviet and anticommunist campaign is being blown up with the help of the Central Intelligence Agency or on local initiative. That is happening in Sweden.

Help is being provided by the West German Deutsche Welle radio station, which organized ideological subversion against Latin American countries via Deutsche Welle's powerful transmitter in the Caribbean basin, Radio Antilles. In West Germany itself recently--in early January--a forgery was put out on the situation in the GDR. DER SPIEGEL magazine printed it in the form of a document--which never existed, of course--which was compiled by West German intelligence, the BND. Finally, a major scandal broke in Britain last week. The GUARDIAN newspaper and the weekly OBSERVER unveiled the activity of a secret propaganda center in the British Foreign Office with the innocent title of the Information Research Department [IRD]. Throughout the postwar period, this establishment has not only planned and coordinated anti-Soviet and anticommunist propaganda in the British Isles, but to a considerable degree also subsidized it out of state funds. We all know already of the close links with some publishing houses, especially Ampersand, which is virtually a part of the IRD. In this publishing firm the large-scale publication of anticommunist and anti-Soviet literature was concentrated. Moreover, the department supplied propaganda material of the requisite leaning and preparation to many publications and individual journalists--especially the so-called Sovietologists. Of course, London is now using its prepared cliche and claiming that such unseemly machinations are part of the past, and in the future everything will be different. Well, here we can say: Believe it if you will; things will hardly be different. We can more probably assume that much will be as it was.

And the main thing is that all these facts reveal more and more openly the true face of the Western mass media, the true worth of their freedom of the press. In our times of acute ideological struggle, Lenin's description of bourgeois propaganda sounds more relevant than ever before: It is one choir, one orchestra. It is conducted by international capital, less obviously than by a conductor's baton, but that it is one orchestra should be clear.

[Druzhinin] Well, all that I have left to add is that in the light of all these facts the Western bourgeois press has no need to pester us in its role of defender of human rights and the principles of Helsinki. For those principles, after all, provide for the dissemination of the kind of information which serves the cause of mutual understanding among peoples. Does the anti-Soviet campaign among the Western mass media correspond with those aims? The answer, I think, is clear.

On that permit me to conclude our broadcast for today. Thank you for listening, comrade listeners, and goodbye.

MATERIAL ON EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S U.S. VISIT

Arrival in Washington

LD040942Y Moscow TASS in English 0843 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 4, TASS--TASS correspondent Yvgeniy Yegorov reports:

As Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat arrived in the USA on Friday a brief ceremony was held in the meadow in front of the White House. President Carter and Anwar as-Sadat exchanged speeches and immediately left by helicopter for Camp David, an out-of-town residence where they will hold secret talks for two days. Pressmen were barred from these talks and were warned that they should not expect any official announcements these days.

Local political observers describe As-Sadat's visit to the USA as a desperate attempt by a losing gambler to change the flow of the game in his favour. As-Sadat will ask the United States to put pressure on Israel to make concessions to Egypt and thus save As-Sadat from the failure of his "mission" which is aimed at concluding a separate deal with Israel. Although President Carter in his welcoming speech spoke approvingly of As-Sadat's "mission", it is stressed in American official circles that the United States policy of full support for Israel remains unchanged and that "no dramatic breakthrough" should be expected from the Camp David talks.

As-Sadat also intends to appeal to Congress and pro-Israeli circles in the USA in the hope that they would put pressure on Israel in order to hasten the conclusion of a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal. He is to meet some members of Congress and businessmen, but the leaders of the principal Zionist organizations in the USA, the New York TIMES reports, refused politely but firmly to meet the Egyptian president.

As follows from J. Carter's statement, the secret American-Egyptian talks will deal not only with the problems of the Middle East but also the situation in the Horn of Africa. The United States has been trying lately to draw Egypt and some other Arab countries into the Ethiopian-Somalian conflict on the side of Somalia. As a lure for Egypt, the U.S. administration promises to consider favourable the question of supplying Egypt with F-5E planes which yield much to the planes the USA has given to Israel but could be used for operacions in other areas of the Middle East and Africa.

U.S. 'Plan'

LD031754Y Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

["Along Path of Separate Deals"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 3 TASS--President as-Sadat of Egypt arrives here today for an official visit at the invitation from the U.S. President James Carter. They are to hold talks to speed up the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal.

The Egyptian president hopes for the White House good offices to make Tel Aviv more tractable. It is common knowledge that until now despite As-Sadat's numerous concessions and his policy of outright surrender Israel has never changed her position on the main issues.

President as-Sadat, resorting to Washington's services, makes it clear that he is prepared to make further concessions to Israel. According to the newspaper Baltimore SUN, the Egyptian president would like to conclude a separate deal with Begin as soon as possible.

The local press predicts that the American-Egyptian talks will be difficult. As the Baltimore SUN points out, the U.S. administration is not prepared to exert pressure on Israel in view of the coming mid-term congressional elections in November and the activization of the powerful Zionist lobby during that period. The New York TIMES notes that so far all hopes Cairo has been pinning on Washington have proved to be in vain. The paper says that As-Sadat has accepted practically all the American proposals. However, he has been waiting in vain for Israel's concessions in return. As for As-Sadat's current visit, the paper notes, the White House regards it, first of all, as an opportunity for persuading the Egyptian president to put up with the idea that the talks on the Middle East problem are going to be protracted.

As has become known here, American diplomacy is now hatching yet another plan for a Middle East "settlement." Cairo and Tel Aviv have been informed about the scheme in general outline by the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Alfred Atherton. According to this scheme, the lands of the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank of the River Jordan and in the Gaza Strip illegally occupied by Israel should be placed under U.N. trusteeship. Later a commission made up of representatives from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the United States and "Palestinians" is to hold a "referendum" in all those areas to enable the Palestinian Arabs to "determine their own future." This scheme is being engineered behind the backs of the Arab peoples. The Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arabs, is to be completely excluded from this process with the mutual consent of both Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Beirut, February 3 TASS--The well-known Lebanese journalist Muhammad Nakkash has commented on the Egyptian president's trip in the ASH-SHAB newspaper. What is left in As-Sadat's portfolio that he might offer Washington? The writer says nothing, since As-Sadat has handed out everything during his trip to Israel, the meetings in Aswan, Ismailia and Cairo. The Americans have already told him a thousand times that they are unable to put pressure on Israel.

Having opened all his cards and spoiled relations with all his brothers and friends As-Sadat now stays empty-handed. At present he has to choose one of the two alternatives: Either to agree to the Israeli and American schemes of settlement or to leave the political scene. Both mean suicide to him.

U.S. Fighters

LD051514Y Moscow TASS in English 1503 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

["Putting Pressure"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 5, TASS--Talks between James Carter and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat are going on at Camp David, the U.S. President's residence.

Taking part in the talks are also U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, State Secretary Cyrus Vance, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the President for national security affairs. The meeting is taking place in a confidential atmosphere and is closed to pressmen.

As knowledgeable American observers note, the United States is now preferring to lay emphasis on "quiet diplomacy" in order to prepare, without much rhetoric, a separate deal between Cairo and Tel Aviv. This is why As-Sadat's press conference, which was planned to be held at Camp David, was cancelled on Washington's insistence.

In talking to newsmen American officials are frankly characterising the meeting at Camp David as sort of "tug of war". They say James Carter refuses outright to heed Egypt's appeals and put pressure on Israel.

The New York TIMES, with reference to the U.S. President's assistant, writes that the United States does not support Egyptian and Arab demands for a return of all Arab lands by Israel and that the USA cannot support the conception of "self-determination" for the Palestinians if it leads to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state at the Israeli borders.

The New York TIMES expresses the view that there is ground for a compromise, since it is not only Israel which opposes the Palestinians' "self-determination" but the present Egyptian leaders hold virtually the same position.

In order to somehow camouflage the capitulatory-to-Egypt [as received] character of the deal which is being prepared, the United States, judging by reports of the press, is expressing readiness to satisfy if only partially As-Sadat's request for the delivery of a batch of American "F-5E" fighters to Egypt with a simultaneous increase in the delivery of weapons to Israel.

According to the press, the question of the sale of armaments is one of the leading topics at Carter's talks with As-Sadat. Observers note that a decision to sell American weapons was taken in the context of separate Egyptian-Israeli talks and is to compel As-Sadat to make further concessions to Tel Aviv.

No 'Dramatic Breakthrough' Expected

LD041442Y Moscow TASS in English 1422 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 4, TASS--TASS commentator Nataliya Zinovyeva writes:

Israeli diplomacy continues providing the Western press with "ideas" of how to settle the Middle East problem. The ideas are aimed at frustrating a just solution to the problem and at replacing it with separate deals. According to the London TIMES, another such "idea" is to divide the Israel-occupied West Bank of the Jordan. Israel is promising some part of the territory, inhabited by Palestinians, to Jordan in an indefinite future, and intends to keep hold of the most important areas. But while creating a semblance of a "flexible position" which Washington is so fond of extolling, Israel pursues quite a different aim: It wants to secure that a "screen" of Israeli militarised settlements on Arab lands be preserved, their construction does not cease, and this is openly admitted by the Israeli press, television and officials.

Therefore, the principal aim of As-Sadat's "mission" in the USA, in the unanimous opinion of Western observers, is exactly to persuade President Carter into putting pressure on Israel and inducing it to make concessions. To As-Sadat, this is the only hope to save his "peace initiative." It is noteworthy that representatives of U.S. official circles, American and other Western organs of the press, while commenting on As-Sadat's arrival in Washington, confidently stated that President Carter would not put pressure on Israel.

After the official welcome ceremony, the two presidents retired to Camp David, where their talks are taking place in complete secrecy. The press is not admitted there. But knowledgeable observers already write of matters which will be definitely excluded from discussion. These are first of all the Palestinian problem, then the question of eliminating the existing and banning the construction of new Israeli militarised settlements in the occupied territories. These topics 'unpleasant' to Israel have been tabooed. It is not without reason that this formula is rife in Washington these days--Sadat's talks will not lead to a "dramatic breakthrough."

While leaving for the USA, the Egyptian president counted on "quiet diplomacy" in which both Egypt and Israel assign the leading role to the United States. As-Sadat's separatist course is a departure from the joint decisions of Arab summit conferences and is a blow at Arab unity. As-Sadat's position was sharply criticised at the current conference of the heads of a number of Arab countries and their representatives in Algiers. Speaking at the conference Algerian President Houari Boumediene condemned As-Sadat's capitulatory anti-Arab policy. The heads of other delegations who spoke next consentiently [as received] reaffirmed the correctness of the conclusions drawn at the Tripoli conference which, on behalf of Arab peoples, condemned the Egyptian president's separate talks with Israeli leaders.

Press Optimism 'Unjustified'

LD032350Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1830 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has begun his tour of some countries, including the United States. The main aim of this tour, the Cairo papers say, will be to meet and hold talks with President Carter. The Cairo press these days is full of optimism, [passage indistinct] but is there justification for such optimism? Facts prove the opposite.

After the As-Sadat-Carter meeting in Aswan, described as a turning point in the search for a Middle East settlement, the general situation became worse and Egypt's positions become markedly weaker. As for Israel, it was quite the opposite. Israel began to follow a more intransigent line in its separate talks with Cairo. Will anything change this time? Will the United States defend the just rights of the Arabs and force Israel to abandon its expansionist policy? I believe this suggestion is laughable, particularly since Carter himself has repeatedly stressed that Washington will not take any political or economic action that directly or indirectly harms Israel or the special relations that exist between Washington and Tel Aviv. Israeli Prime Minister Begin made the situation clear to some extent on the eve of the As-Sadat-Carter meeting. In his statement on French television yesterday he said that serious contradictions exist between Tel Aviv and Cairo and that these include differences on the future of Sinai. [passage indistinct]

Thus, Tel Aviv seems to reaffirm that it intends to continue the Israel-Egyptian talks on the basis of the inflexible line that seeks to give Israel the right to own part of occupied Arab territory, including Egyptian territory. Where then is cause for optimism?

FURTHER MATERIAL ON PONOMAREV DELEGATION'S U.S. VISIT

Welcomed by 'Realists'

LD031337Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Correspondent M. Sturua report: "Good Will Mission"]

[Excerpt] The itinerary of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by B.M. Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the United States includes the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Houston, the space flight capital, and Detroit, the capital of the car industry. This is a good will mission which the American public is giving a warm reception.

The international lifestock laboratory financed by Winthrop Rockefeller, Jr., is located at Winrock farm, Arkansas. In conversations between members of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation and representatives of the press, Rockefeller stressed the need for business contacts between our countries and their positive influence on the international atmosphere.

This idea also resounded in the interviews which California businessmen granted this correspondent. Charles Thornton, chairman of the board of directors of Litton Industries, and Armand Hammer, chairman of the board of directors of Occidental Petroleum, said that U.S. business circles welcome the visit of the USSR Suprme Soviet delegation to the United States.

"An improvement of the political atmosphere also means an improvement of the state of economic cooperation," Hammer stated in particular. "I am confident that the conclusion of a new strategic arms limitation agreement will not only reduce the threat of war but will also give new impetus to the development of Soviet-American business relations."

Of course it would be naive to consider that everyone in the United States thinks like this and that the mighty military industrial complex shares such ideas. It would also be incorrect to assert that the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit is welcome throughout America. Forces striving to thwart an improvement in Soviet-American relations are not sitting twiddling their thumbs. They are trying to oppose the winds of detente by the most varied means. Thus, the "big" press of the capital endeavored to hush up the delegation's visit and gave the appearance that there was no visit at all and that the delegation had never had lengthy conversations on Capitol Hill or that there had even been a meeting between President Carter and the head of the Soviet delegation. And indeed this is the press which boasts of its objectivity and its desire to inform: As was to be expected Zionist circles, which organized a number of provocative and sometimes downright hooligan escapades along the route followed by the delegation, also "contributed" to the shameful business of trying to worsen Soviet-American friendly relations.

But neither the silence of the press nor the sound of the Zionist hooligans picketing the streets are in a position to spoil the melodious tune. Realistic political and business circles welcome the visit of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation and the ordinary American people are giving it a most friendly reception.

Trip Called 'Useful'

LD041150Y Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation returned to Moscow today from the United States. The delegation was headed by Boris Ponomarev, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two houses of the Supreme Soviet, and a secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee. Our reporter interviewed a member of the delegation, Yurij Zhukov. Yuriy Zhukov is a member of the Soviet Union's top legislature and a political observer on the staff of the national daily PRAVDA. Here is an English translation of the interview: [read by announcer]

The reporter asked Yuriy Zhukov to sum up the main results of the highly representative Soviet delegation's visit to the United States.

The visit strengthens the tradition of these now regular exchanges of views between Soviet and American legislators, Yuriy Zhukov said. We attach great significance to this dialog since the parliaments of both countries play a decisive role in shaping foreign policy. For four days on Capitol Hill we discussed the most acute problems of our day and the problems of the bilateral agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States. These were direct and frank discussions. We did not evade acute issues. Wherever necessary we explained each other's views and sought common ground. In the forefront were the ongoing Soviet-American negotiations to limit strategic arms. We also discussed relations between our two countries and spoke earnestly of the need for joint efforts to abolish the seats of tension on our planet.

I have the impression that the American people, just as in the past, want to see the relations between our two countries improve, said Yuriy Zhukov. No matter how the opponents of relaxation try to hamper this process they are unsuccessful. Of course, there are many misunderstandings and wrong interpretations of this or that issue. Nevertheless, the prevailing desire is to understand us better and improve the relationship with the Soviet Union. This was true at our talks in Washington, and it was true at our meetings with representatives of the public in Little Rock in the state of Arkansas, in Houston, in Los Angeles, where we had very many meetings, and in New York. At the same time we also saw traces of the work--work with a minus sign--that is being conducted by the enemies of relaxation. I would not like to concentrate on this, but let me mention the following fact:

When we were in Los Angeles we had many interesting discussions. Suddenly, during our luncheon at a motion picture studio, a group of individuals appeared with anti-Soviet placards, and one of them spilled a plate of salad onto the seat of one of the experts of our delegation. You understand, of course, that such petty hooliganism is not regarded by us as being representative of the American people's attitude to us. These are minor provocations which merely show how foul are the actions of those who lack agruments and who resort instead to such cheap and petty acts. A group of young people who were there, on learning of this, arranged an impromptu concert for us, singing old Russian and contemporary Soviet songs to make up for this insignificant and annoying incident. I should add, said Yuriy Zhukov, that everywhere, we felt the good will of the American public towards the Soviet Union although, as I said, there are problems that have to be explained.

We appreciate the fact that some of the members of our delegation were able to appear on American television. We are prepared to expand the exchange of information, and we consider such cooperative construction.

On the whole, I repeat, the trip was useful, and it provided us with an opportunity to get to know each other's viewpoints better and to search for ways of cooperating in solving the problems in which we have an equal interest.

The next question our reporter asked was about the discussions during the visit on the problems of restraining the arms race.

The fact, said Yuriy Zhukov, that parallel with the process of relaxation there continues an arms race should be of equal concern for Americans and to us. We spoke a great deal of this during our discussions on Capitol Hill. This cannot be tolerated any further. Talks are now under way in Geneva on limiting arms. The enemies of relaxation threaten to use their lobbyists in Congress to prevent ratification of the agreement now being prepared. Additional efforts should therefore be made by the public to speed the solution of this problem. We spoke a great deal of the neutron bomb during these discussions, said Yuriy Zhukov. We explained to our American colleagues why we are concerned about this. We have felt all along that the addition of the neutron bomb to arsenals would heighten international tension.

The next question was about impressions of America.

Yuriy Zhukov said: I have been to America shortly before this, for a conference of Soviet and American public personalities held in Arizona. America is a great power with a social system different from ours, but we respect all people whatever system they live under, and we pay tribute to the American people's creative genius. Of course one is bound to notice traces of the recession that hit America. We heartily wish Americans a speedy recovery from the effects of that recession. Many Americans told us that at a time when markets are not easy to find it is important to expand economic relations with the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union.

Here we have a big reserve potential of international economic development, Yuriy Zhukov said. Unfortunately the United States, and this was acknowledged by our counterparts at the talks, is making insufficient use of this reserve.

The notorious Jackson amendment covering trade between us and the United States is still in force, and the trade agreement we signed back in 1972 has still not become effective because of this. The aim of this amendment is somehow to use trade as a weapon to, mildly speaking, change Soviet internal policies. That, of course, is a still-born undertaking. It is ridiculous to think we would change our laws by a decision of a foreign state. Such things do not happen. Indeed, I think Americans would react the same way if we, after signing an economic agreement with them, were to say we would ratify it only provided they radically change the status of Indians in the United States. Such things ought not to be linked. We are not forcing ourselves as trade partners upon the United States. We are ready to develop economic relations with it, and we want this, but only under normal terms under which the United States develops economic relations with all other countries. For the present, we have every opportunity to trade with any other developed capitalist country.

And I would add confidentially to American listeners that America's rivals, notably in Federal Germany and Japan, were very glad the Jackson amendment was adopted, enabling them to get the orders that would normally have gone to the United States. That is the only result of this undertaking. I hope commonsense will prevail and that conditions will be created for normalizing trade between our countries.

Media Coverage

LD050726Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

["Moscow Viewpoint" by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] The event I want to discuss today is one I'm sure you've heard little or even nothing about, and this although the event in question has taken place in your country and is in my view highly important. I refer to a 11-day visit to the United States by a Soviet parliamentary delegation. The delegation, which concluded its visit on Thursday, included many prominent personalities known abroad as well as in the USSR.

The visit which I covered as a journalist made possible many important meetings and discussions. For 4 days, for example, the Soviet legislators met with American senators and congressmen to discuss disarmament, the situation in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa and Soviet-American relations. The delegation was headed by Boris Ponomarev, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of one of the houses of the Supreme Soviet and an alternate member of the Communist Party's Political Bureau. In the course of the visit he met with President James Carter, Vice President Walter Mondale and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. They discussed problems on which a great deal depends in the contemporary world. Nevertheless, I am prepared to bet you have no detailed information about this visit or its results. As I said, I was in the United States with the delegation, and every morning as I opened the newspapers I was surprised to find either nothing at all about the visit or else the briefest of reports providing little or no idea about this event. The same thing happened in the evenings whenever I switched on a television set in the hotel room and waited in vain for some mention of the visit in the newscasts.

Why was this so? Let's ponder this question. Was it perhaps that the visit did not seem newsworthy to American newspaper publishers and television network chiefs? I do not have so low an esteem of the political erudition or professionalism of the men at the head of the American mass media. Even if one assumes that one or several American editors are insufficiently competent and made a mistake in underestimating the importance of this event, how does one account for the fact that in this case the free American press, which boasts of being independent, displayed such striking unanimity just as if they were soldiers marching to one and the same drum? Was it perhaps that the man at the head of the media did realize the importance of these meetings, but decided that Americans could not be interested and therefore reduced press and television coverage to a bare minimum? I doubt that the press and television editors think so poorly of their fellow countrymen, the more so since the interest in the visit was clearly visible to the naked eye.

During the visit the Soviet legislators, in addition to their stay in Washington, traveled to Houston, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Detroit and New York: Everywhere they aroused great interest. Businessmen and politicians, public personalities and ordinary Americans were eager to meet them. People spoke to them of the need to improve relations between our countries and expressed the hope that the relaxation of international tensions would assure the nations a life of peace.

But if so, if this was an important event affecting not only politicians but every American concerned about the future of his children, why then the media's conspiracy of silence about it? The conclusions seem inevitable. First, this example shows that all the talk about the freedom of the press in the United States is nothing but a myth. The American mass media are not public but private property. They are under the control of those who own the newspapers and the broadcasting networks and who direct their work as they consider it to be to their advantage. The second conclusion is that highly influential circles in America, including the men in control of the media, bristle at the very idea of tensions being reduced in the world and oppose all steps to improve relations between our countries. But despite all this, I returned to Moscow in no pessimistic frame of mind. I've become even more convinced of the obvious gap between the mood of the American people, interested in peace and good relations between our countries, and those who claim to be spokesmen for American public opinion. After all, what really counts is not what this or that paper says or does not say. What counts is what the American people think and aspire to.

Addition to Item on Return

The following addition to the item entitled "Ponomorev Delegation Visits New York, Returns to USSR" and subtitled "3 Feb Return to USSR," published in the 3 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page B 3, was taken from Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1200 GMT on 3 February:

"The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and other official figures. Among those welcoming the delegation was Matlock, U.S. charge d'affaires in the USSR."

TEXT OF PRAVDA ITEM ON U.S. INTERFERENCE IN EUROPE SCORED

LD031235Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Article by Political commentator Vitaliy Korionov: "Taking Refuge Behind a Screen of Democracy"]

[Text] The foreign press is citing more and more new facts attesting to intensifying interference on the part of U.S. ruling circles in the internal affairs of France, Italy and other countries of Western Europe.

Of course, this interference began long ago. From the "Marshall Plan" and the creation of the North Atlantic bloc to the Pentagon's present efforts to impose the neutron bomb on West European countries, there has invariably been inherent in Washington's course a desire to treat the states of Western Europe not just as a field for unrestricted activity by U.S. monopolies and a bridgehead for deployment of U.S. troops but also as a region where the United States can have a very considerable say in the determination of the political systems in those countries, even as far as the composition of governments.

True, there was a period when the people across the ocean who are fond of dictating their will to other peoples had to curb their own ardor somewhat. The failure of the U.S. armed intervention in Indochina and the series of scandals connected with CIA activities and the corruption of statesmen and politicians in many capitalist countries by the bigwigs of Lockheed and other U.S. corporations forced Washington politicians to stress in their statements adherence to democratic norms in relations with their partners.

As is known, during the 1976 presidential election the Democratic candidate, although not concealing his negative attitude toward the possibility of communists entering the governments of West European countries, asserted that the United States, "acting democratically," would not attempt to interfere in any way in the internal affairs of Italy, France or other countries.

But in actual fact, quite soon after these promises had been made, there followed a series of political and other steps which essentially signified direct interference in the affairs of those countries in which the question of communist participation in government had been placed on the agenda by life itself.

Describing J. Carter's visit to Paris at the beginning of this year, the foreign press noted that by letting the French voters know what kind of vote Washington expects and also by trying to influence the situation in the alliance of leftwing forces, the U.S. President in essence had joined in the French parliamentary election campaign. The elections are to take place in March.

The interference in Italy's internal affairs proved to be even more peremptory. As is known on 12 January the State Department issued a statement bluntly pointing out that the United States does not approve of participation by communists in European governments, specifically the Italian Government. E. Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], at the most recent plenum of the PCI Central Committee, called this interference by the U.S. State Department in Italy's internal affairs "inadmissable"--and with every reason.

On 13 January NBC broadcast an interview with H. Kissinger in which an attempt was made to "substantiate" this U.S. policy. A few days later NATO Secretary General Luns declared that communists must not be allowed to participate in government and must, of course, be prevented from taking office as ministers of finance, defense or foreign affairs.

At the same time a statement by U.S. Senator E. Brooke became known. "Insofar as the Italian foreign debt amounts to $21 billion," the senator said, "and the interest being paid by Italy has already reached $1.3 billion a year, it will not be able to do without help from the IMF." During a recent meeting in Rome with leaders of the Italian Government, Brooke very significantly recalled that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, of which he is a member, can influence the IMF decision to give Italy financial assistance.

The Washington POST also reports on the use of economic pressure on Italy. "The U.S. leaders," it writes, "are at present drawing up a series of recommendations for the IMF monitoring team which is to go to Rome immediately after the formation of a new government. The positive or negative position of this team with respect to Italy will play an important role...."

The Pentagon has not remained aloof either. A very significant statement has come from circles close to the Pentagon: "Alternative emergency plans have already been drawn up against the contingency of the PCI's joining the Italian Government."

That is how matters actually stand with respect to the promise given by the leader of the Democratic Party during the 1976 election campaign: "We will not erect a wall round Italy if the PCI joins the government."

U.S. newspapers do not conceal that the intensification of Washington's interference in Italy's internal affairs is in no small degree dictated by fear of the processes taking place in the ranks of the Christian Democratic Party [DC]. The position of the Communists, who warn that a serious threat hangs over the future of Italy and could lead the country to regression on a scale difficult to predict, is encountering increasing understanding in certain sections of the DC. The PCI's consistent line toward formation of a democratic unity government with participation by all democratic forces including, naturally, the Communists is finding a positive response in those sections of the DC that adopt a realistic stance. This patently does not suit Washington. U.S. journalists R. Evans and R. Novak declare frankly that "a tough line" by Washington must serve as a "warning to the DC old guard" so that they may put up "resolute resistance" to the PCI.

The motives by which U.S. circles are guided in their policy with respect to Western Europe were expounded by H. Kissinger in his NBC interview. Explaining why "the United States cannot remain indifferent to the internal development of Europe," he said that in the event of communist participation in the governments of those countries "stress on defense will diminish and there will be increased stress on the transformation of society. [paragraph continues]

"Less stress will be placed on close cooperation with the United States and more stress will be placed on a semineutral status." To all intents and purposes, what is concealed behind these words is the preservation of U.S. military bases in Italy, the tightening of the "Atlantic" noose around the necks of the countries involved in NATO, and the further increase of military spending concealed by references to "defense."

The venerable ex-diplomat did not hesitate at a very crude distortion of historical truth. Answering a question on the reason for the growing influence of communist parties in Western Europe, which he calls a "paradox," Kissinger asserted when speaking of Italy that strictly speaking there had been no resistance movement there and that this was nothing more than a . . . "legend."

Yet the outstanding contribution which the Italian resistance movement made to the cause of the liberation of their country is known to the whole world. It was the resistance armed forces that cleared the Hitlerite occupiers from northern Italy. More than 400,000 Italian working people participated in armed struggle against the German-fascist troops and their Italian puppets. Everyone knows that the movement was headed above all by the Communists, thousands of whom sacrificed their lives to liberate their homeland from the invaders.

It is equally well known that the Communists, acting jointly with the Socialists, played a tremendous role in insuring that after the war Italy was pulled from the fascist quicksand and rebuilt from ruin. In the grimmest and most difficult periods of the country's national life, the Communists showed themselves to be ardent patriots. And some people would like to declare this a "legend"!

Moreover, the speaker at the NBC microphone even tried to ascribe to the Communists responsibility for. . . the actions of terrorists in the FRG, Italy and other countries. "Someone is obviously financing and training them," he declared, speaking of the terrorists,"and the communist world is undoubtedly participating in this." These are the kind of absurdities that can be uttered when someone is seeking to slander communists at all costs!

The history of recent years has brought much convincing confirmation of what pernicious consequences anticommunism has brought the countries of the West. Nevertheless, disregarding the lessons of the past, reactionary circles are trying once again to sharpen and bring into play this rusty weapon in their struggle not only against the communists but also against all democrats and democratic freedoms.

Anticommunism, however, is the weapon of the doomed. It does not bring success to those who are counting on undermining the positions of the communist and general democratic movement, which is marching in the front ranks of the fighters for peace and for the right of the peoples to create their own destiny as they themselves see fit.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY VISITS CHINA; PRC SUPPORTS SEPARATE DEAL

LD041526Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] While the conference of leaders from a number of Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization is going on in Algiers, discussing questions of strengthening all-Arab solidarity in the struggle for a just settlement in the Near East, Egypt's President as-Sadat has flown to Washington, as has already been reported. At the same time, also setting out from Cairo in the opposite direction from Algiers was As-Sadat's special representative, Hasan at-Thuhami, deputy premier of Egypt. He has flown to Peking.

The aim of As-Sadat's visit to the United States is known. No one doubts the aim of At-Tuhami's mission to the PRC. The Egyptian deputy premier's trip to Peking, reports REUTER, is connected with the present diplomatic campaign President as-Sadat is conducting to clarify his position regarding a settlement with Israel. In other words, the Egyptian leadership striving to conclude a separate deal with Israel and thus revealing its almost total isolation in the Arab world, is now counting on the support of not only the United States but of the PRC as well.

What is Peking's position on the question of the Near East crisis? In the PRC capital there is a constant stream of propaganda to the effect that China adheres firmly to the foreign policy of Mao Tse-tung and sides with the Arab people. This was restated at a reception held in honor of As-Sadat's emissary on 2 February by Li Hsien-hien, vice premier of the PRC State Council. But words of solidarity with the Arab people are only words.

The real Maoist position is in direct opposition to [words indistinct]. In reality, Peking is working hand in glove with the imperialist circles and reactionary Arab politicians, thus preventing the Arab people from achieving the satisfaction of their rightful demands. There is quite extensive evidence that the Maoists fully approve the separate deal between Israel and Egypt, against which the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Libya and other Arab countries determinedly protest. Another testimony of this is the statement made by Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, Jamieson, who has just been in Peking for talks with the PRC leaders. Telling journalists about these talks Jamieson said, China supports As-Sadat's initiative and approves U.S. policy on the Near East.

PEKING FOREIGN POLICY CREATES CHAOS, SEEKS CONFRONTATION

LD040758Y Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 4, TASS--"Peking's foreign policy--which rests on the wild Maoist idea of the 'inevitability of a third world war' and which expresses the hegemonistic aims and aspirations of the Peking leadership and its frenzied anti-Sovietism--aims to undermine the process of relaxation of international tension by any means, to provoke conflicts and discord, to set the peoples and states one against another and to sow hostility and hatred for the USSR", Yuriy Kornilov writes in the magazine "OGONEK."

He says in his article titled "Whither Peking?" that trying to knock together a certain "united front" against the world's first socialist country, the Chinese leaders are repeating the myth fabricated by imperialist propaganda concerning the "Soviet menace" which allegedly hangs over the Western countries and urge these countries to do away with detente, step up their arms race and strengthen the aggressive NATO bloc which is known to have been created for struggle against the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community.

"All of Peking's diplomatic activity in the international arena, specifically in the United Nations, is determined by attempts to torpedo the process of relaxation of international tension," the article says. After the PRC's rights in the United Nations were restored in 1971, it has not submitted a single constructive proposal. But as soon as any state comes up in the UNO with an initiative in favour of detente it immediately meets with sharp opposition from the Chinese delegation."

Peking's home policy, which is a policy of total militarisation that consumes more than 40 percent of the country's budget funds, a policy of whipping up war psychosis and stirring up hatred of the Soviet people, is also fully subordinated to the Maoist concept on the "inevitability of war."

It is said in the article that Peking, which is ready to team up with any reactionary forces for the sake of its great-power ambitions and is prepared for any capitulation to imperialism, persistently seeks military aid from those Western circles which are not interested in detente and which are prepared for their selfish ends to encourage the adventurism and hegemonistic aspirations of the Peking militarists.

It is well known to all, with whom the Peking leaders team up on the grounds of anti-Sovietism and the striving to torpedo detente. Among them are the NATO "warhawks" who place reliance on arms build-up and the West German revanchists who are blinded by anti-Sovietism, former Hilter generals who make "friendship trips" to China and the leaders of military-industrial concerns, the emissaries of imperialism who are operating in the developing countries and hangmen from the Chilean junta--in short militant anticommunists, militarists and arch-reactionaries of all hues and shades.

"The Maoists," the article says, "are pushing the world to creating a universal chaos, are implanting an atmosphere of fear and military confrontation, are trying to make the peoples believe the monstrous idea that every generation should have 'its own war'.... Facts show again and again that Peking's foreign policy is prompted by a desire to thwart by any means the relaxation of international tension, to provoke a world war and to warm its hands on this."

CEAUSESCU RECEIVES KATUSHEV, RECEIVES BREZHNEV MESSAGE

LD041134Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, today received in Bucharest Katushev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Katushev is heading the Soviet delegation at the 10th session of the Intergovernmental Soviet-Romanian Commission on Economic Cooperation.

Comrade Katushev handed Comrade Ceausescu a message expressing warm greetings from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and from Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who also wished good health and new successes to Ceausescu on his 60th birthday.

Expressing thanks for the congratulations and good wishes, Ceausescu asked that his heartfelt greetings be conveyed to Comrades Brezhnev and Kosygin, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. He also conveyed his wishes for new successes to the peoples of the Soviet Union.

The general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party declared that the high award of the Order of Lenin, with which he was recently honored, was an expression of the good relations between the two parties and peoples and was evidence of their mutual desire to develop and expand these relations in the interests of the Romanian and Soviet people and the cause of socialism and communism.

During the meeting there was an exchange of opinions on the questions of Soviet-Romanian economic, scientific and technical cooperation. It was noted that the expansion of bilateral economic relations was progressing in accordance with the accord reached by Comrades Brezhnev and Ceausescu during their meetings and talks.

In connection with this, the participants resolved to apply all efforts to expand and deepen Soviet-Romanian cooperation. The meeting took place in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

Economic Commission Meets

LD041136Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 78 LF

[Text] The 10th session of the Soviet-Romanian Inter-Governmental Commission of Economic Cooperation took place in Bucharest. The commission stressed the great significance of the meeting and talks between Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of Romania, for the development of Soviet-Romanian cooperation, raising its effectiveness and perfecting economic and scientific-technical ties. The commission discussed problems relating to the further expansion and deepening of cooperation in leading branches of industry of the two countries, and determined the agenda for drafting long-term programs to develop specialization and cooperation in production to 1990 in accordance with the long-term cooperation programs that have been drawn up by CEMA organs.

Today the Soviet delegation left for home.

CHNOUPEK: ECONOMIC, DISARMAMENT TALKS VITAL TO DETENTE

LD032140Y Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--"The results of the policy of relaxation during the incomplete ten years of its active influence are more than good", Bohuslav Chnoupek, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic writes in the second issue of the Soviet magazine INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS [MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN].

We do not claim, the minister points out, that today the relations among states with differing social systems are "cloudless and meet fully with the concept of mutually advantageous relations between states. However, really notable results have been achieved in this domain, primarily, in the political and economic spheres."

The point in question is the turn in the development of international relations, and it is even more valuable that this turn opens up prospects, ruling out war and violence.

The bourgeois leaders can demonstrate today their goodwill not only by word of mouth, but also by deeds in the solution of the key problem of peaceful coexistence, namely, the problem of disarmament. The most important pressing task of the present time is to put an end to the feverish arms race, particularly in the sphere of nuclear missile armaments. If success is not achieved in this domain, the favourable tendencies in the development of international relations will not be able to become stable and lasting.

"Czechoslovakia is honestly fulfilling all the recommendations, linked with the problems of international economic and scientific, technical cooperation among states, signatories of the final act in Helsinki, the minister continues. We are endeavouring at all the trade and political negotiations to reach agreement with our partners on the inclusion of a reference to the final act in the concluded documents and we have achieved this already in negotiations with several Western states".

"The reactionary circles in the United States and Western Europe, Bohuslav Chnoupek notes, have launched several campaigns, spreading fabrications about the alleged 'non-compliance' of the socialist states by the 'third basket' provisions, about the so-called 'human rights violations' in these countries, about the mythical 'military menace' from the USSR and the Warsaw Pact, etc. The purpose of these filthy campaigns is to thwart the detente, to revive the 'cold war' relapses."

"The recent events have again confirmed that the stake of the reaction on the noisy 'human rights' campaign have fallen through."

CPCZ OFFICIALS STUDY CPSU EXPERIENCE IN PARTY WORK

LD031659Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] In accordance with the plan for party links between the CPSU and the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ], E. Turzo and J. Majchercik, chiefs of CPCZ Central Committee Departments, were in Moscow from 30 January through 1 February. The Czechoslovak comrades had meetings and talks with CPSU Central Committee Sections in a warm, friendly atmosphere, during which an exchange of experience of party work took place. The friends from the CSSR also met with members of the Central Board of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society.

'MOSCOW DAYS' END IN BERLIN; BRISHIN LEADS SOVIET GROUP

LD052232Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2050 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Moscow Days ended today with a big, festive concert in Berlin. All last week the GDR capital was visited by workers from Moscow factories and front-ranking workers from new building sites, representatives of trade union and komsomol organizations, and people active in culture and art.

The Moscow delegation was headed by Comrade Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

BULGARIA AWARDS KULAKOV GEORGI DIMITROV AWARD

LD041104Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] By a decree of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic Comrade Kulakov, member of the Politburo and CPSU CC secretary, has been awarded the Georgi Dimitrov order. He has been given this high award for great services in the development of fraternal cooperation between the CPSU and the Bulgarian Communist Party and for his great contribution to the strengthening of friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples and also to honor his 60th birthday.

SUSPENSION OF TALKS FURTHER UNDERMINES DC POSITION

LD0314437 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Rome, 1 February TASS--Christian Democrat G. Andreotti, instructed by the Italian president to form a new government, has decided to suspend the second round of consultations with political parties. After his meeting yesterday with a delegation of the Christian Democratic Party [DC], a session of the DC leadership was announced for 3 February.

G. Andreotti's talks with political party delegations scheduled for today will not be resumed until the Christian Democrats have finalized their position in the situation that has developed.

According to local commentators, the postponement of consultations has been caused by disagreements within the DC leadership over options available for resolving the government crisis and by the refusal of Christian Democrats to agree to other parties' demands, which insist on changes in the political leadership of the state and on the participation of Communists in the government.

The leader of the DC's rightwing are inspired, the press notes, by the position of the United States which is persistently harping on the "undesirability" of representatives of the Italian Communist Party [PCI] entering the government, and which is threatening Italy with all kinds of "sanctions," particularly in the economic and financial spheres.

Yesterday, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs G. Vest declared in one of the subcommittees of the House International Relations Committee that "when it is a matter of the participation of communists in the governments of West European countries, it is impossible to display indifference." Assuming the right to decide for the Italian people their own internal affairs, G. Vest declared that the communist parties "cannot be entrusted with the running of the state."

The course of the DC, which is stubbornly objecting to any form of Communist participation in the government or in the ruling majority, contradicts not only the position of the PCI but also that of a number of other parties. Either the Communists join the ruling majority or there will be early Parliamentary elections, U. Le Malfa, president of the Italian Republican Party, declared. B. Craxi, political secretary of the Italian Socialist Party, writes today in the newspaper "AVANTI" that the socialists do not intend to participate in any ruling coalition other than a government in which the PCI participates.

The democratic press points out that the postponement of the consultations is leading to an atmosphere of uncertainty in the country and gives the ruling circles, which are trying to impose early elections on Italy, freedom to maneuver.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS DEMAND GREATER FOREIGN POLICY ROLE

LD0512347 Moscow in French to Europe 2100 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, the weekly NOVOYE VREMYA has published an article by (Vasiliy Guryev) entitled "France: The Crisis and the Legislative Elections." The author assesses the situation in France on the eve of the parliamentary elections by analyzing certain problems of the country's foreign policy. We offer for your attention a summary of the second part of this article:

It goes without saying, writes the author, that the majority of French people speak out in favor of detente and the prevention of a new world war. They recommend the development of mutually advantageous French-Soviet cooperation and the strengthening of friendship between the two peoples. However, the [French political] right continually calls into question the policy of detente. It seeks to strengthen Atlantic trends in foreign policy and to prevent cooperation with the USSR and other socialist states.

Democratic opinion justifiably criticizes the unconstructive position of the government on the very urgent problem of disarmament. It is concerned by the increase in military spending, and by the country's growing links with the NATO military organization. Many French political figures underestimate the danger presented by the American plans to manufacture and deploy the neutron bomb in Western Europe.

At the same time, the prospect of a strengthening role for the left and of participation by the French Communist Party in government seriously worries NATO and political circles which have not yet abandoned the imperialist method of diktat. The fact that the U.S. State Department officially stated that Washington would not be in favor of communist participation in West European governments attests to this. The French Communist Party has again clearly opposed American pressure which is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Helsinki agreement. It was also condemned by Jacques Chirac, chairman of the Rally for the Republic Party, former Premier Couve de Murville, and Francois Mitterrand, first secretary of the Socialist Party. President Giscard d'Estaing and Premier Raymond Barre have also rejected the advice of the United States.

It is significant, the author continues, that the written press and reactionary chronicles are continuing their anticommunist and anti-Soviet campaign and seek to spread mistrust toward Soviet policy. The comments of certain parties and the commentaries in the rightist press publicize false theories about a condominium of the superpowers and about a Soviet threat. Reactionaries need such attacks--not only to prevent detente but also to discredit socialism in general and the communist and workers parties which defend it, by distorting Soviet policy. Unfortunately, notes the author, progressive forces in France do not always respond appropriately to these outbursts of anti-Sovietism.

Certain elements would like to resuscitate plans for a military-political bloc directed against the Soviet Union. They subjugate European construction not to the interests of cooperation throughout Europe but to the plans for the political and military integration of Western Europe up to the point of the creation of supranational bodies. In other words, this involves the further division of Europe.

The working class opposes this by their will to achieve peace and detente and with a more constructive approach to the problems of disarmament and an independent foreign policy. The democratic forces of the country demand that France should adhere to the agreement on preventing a nuclear war and to the treaties banning nuclear weapon tests and on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. They speak out against anticommunism and anti-Sovietism and recommend the use of all means to promote cooperation with the USSR.

BRANDT REMARKS ON DETENTE, NEUTRON BOMB CITED

LD031804Y Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 3, TASS--In an interview with the weekly VORWAERTS the chairman of the SDPG Willy Brandt said this: The policy of detente in the West and in the East now holds the central place in political decisions. Not one of the governments aware of its responsibility would be able or would wish to dissociate itself from this. We are now living through the process which will determine whether we shall continue advancing along our road or whether the chances of ensuring peace that are opening now will be soiled for many years ahead.

We must be striving to avoid all that might liquidate these chances. This is shown clearly by both the German and European interests. Therefore I suggest that we should continue resolutely, and at the same time without any illusions, advancing along the road that was started. It will not be in the interests of anyone if one of the sides should overestimate its possibilities and its might. Detente can exist only under the condition that we shall confirm and materialize it in the sphere of arms restrictions in the years ahead.

The policy of detente and active ensurance of peace is now tested for durability in many aspects. Much, certainly, depends on two atomic powers, but the responsibility is also borne by many other countries, not the least of all, by the FRG.

Supporting the policy of detente, Willy Brandt at the same time assumed a rather inconsistent and not quite clear position in the discussion concerning the neutron bomb. Avoiding to condemn those who are seeking to deploy this barbarous weapon in West European countries, he even tried to indirectly justify these plans in a certain measure.

NEW FRG MINISTERS NAMED FOLLOWING POLITICAL SCANDAL

LD031740Y Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 3 TASS--It was officially announced here about the reshuffle in the coalition government of the Social Democratic and Free Democratic parties formed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in November, 1976.

Georg Leber will be replaced on the post of the defence minister by Hans Apel who was finance minister until now.

Leber's resignation is a result of a political scandal connected with the exposure of illegal operations of West German military counterintelligence whose controlling was in the competence of the minister. Over several years, the counterintelligence bodies were conducting surveillance of political organizations and citizens of the FRG and were, specifically, tapping telephone conversations.

The minister of building and urban development, Karl Ravens, the minister of education, Helmut Rohde, and the minister for economic cooperation, Marie Schlei, (all of the SDPG) resigned at the same time.

Speaking today at a press conference in Bonn, the official spokesman for the government, State Secretary Klaus Boelling, said that Chancellor Schmidt had decided to appoint as finance minister Hans Matthoefer of the SDPG who held so far the post of the minister of research and technology.

Volker Hauff of the SDPG will become the minister of research and technology. Dieter Haack (SDPG) will become the minister of building and urban development . Juergen Schmude (SDPG) will become the minister of education and Rainer Offergeld (SDPG) will become the minister for economic cooperation.

Klaus Boelling said the new ministers will be sworn in in the Bundestag building on February 16.

Media Comments on Scandal

LD032206Y Moscow TASS in English 2129 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 3 TASS--A wave of scandals has swept the FRG in connection with the exposure of the unlawful activity of agents of West German secret services.

It was found out that agents of the M.A.D. military counterintelligence are following into the footsteps of their colleagues of other secret services of the FRG as regards spying on the citizens of the country--wire tapping and bugging private apartments.

The M.A.D. uses methods and devices which are described as scandalous by DIE ZEIT weekly. It reports that the military counterintelligence has already collected more than four million files for the citizens of the country. The newspaper UNSERE ZEIT notes that the "mass character of spying" conducted by secret services on democrats, trade union activists, the leadership of the German Communist Party, progressive youth organizations and even some Bundestag deputies.

The activity of agents of secret services runs counter to the constitution and laws of the FRG. The atmosphere of total shadowing, the unceremonious encroachment of spies on the privacy of citizens, the bugging of private apartments are a source of indignation and well-grounded alarm among citizens of the country.

The facts, which have now been made public, are only the "top of the iceberg," the newspaper UNSERE ZEIT stresses. They only partly show "the scale of violations of the constitution by all the secret services" of the country. The German Communist Party, the newspaper notes, demands an immediate open investigation into such unconstitutional practices.

FRG INSTITUTE WARNS U.S. AGAINST DROPPING DOLLAR RATE

LD061010Y Moscow TASS in English 1001 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 6, TASS--The Research Institute of Economics in Hamburg has warned U.S. financial circles against their speculation for a fall of the dollar rate in the currency-exchange markets in the West. The purpose of such speculative activities is to ensure conditions for reducing the United States enormous foreign trade deficit.

It is stressed in a memorandum published by the West German institute that such a policy involves great risks for the entire monetary-financial system of the West. The institute says that the present monetary policy of the USA harbours a great danger for Western trade and on the Western monetary system because a distrusted dollar has an extremely adverse effect on the entire system of trade and capital.

It is also stressed in the memorandum that one of the aims of the policy of reducing the dollar rate is to "export" unemployment, which has assumed enormous proportions in the USA, to other countries in the Western world.

PORTUGUESE PUBLIC SEEKS END TO REACTIONARY MANUEVERS IN AZORES

LD040024Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1830 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Yuriy Konstantinov commentary]

[Text] The separatists are continuing their raids in the Azores. They are taking advantage of the complex political situation in mainland Portugal and the government's hesitation to normalize the situation in the archipelago. The leaders of the Azores Liberation Front demand the Azores' separation from Portugal and their alliance with the United States on the same basis as those laid down at the time of the freely associated state of Puerto Rico's association with its northern neighbor. The separatist leaders do not conceal the fact that they are hoping to obtain support for their demands from U.S. military circles. The British paper DAILY TELEGRAPH exposes the underlying reasons for the separatists' statements. According to the DAILY TELEGRAPH, the United States favors the Azorean rightwing forces and finances them in favor of the U.S. military presence in the archipelago. U.S. assistance increases as the movement on the mainland for the demilitarization of the Azores grows, the paper concludes.

The Pentagon is deeply entrenched in the Azores. On Terceira Island is the large Lajes air base, where hangars house giant Galaxy transport aircraft. These aircraft are available for an airlift across the Atlantic, as was the case, for example, during the October 1973 Middle East war, when the Americans hurriedly supplied Israel with arms.

As in the past, Portuguese citizens have great difficulty entering the Lajes air base, the newspaper O DIARIO [words indistinct] notes. And that is the case. According to the existing agreement, the area covered by the air base is under U.S. jurisdiction and the U.S. military police do not allow representatives of the Portuguese authorities inside the base.

As the weekly [name indistinct] pointed out, the Pentagon has laid the foundations for its strategic routes across the Atlantic by turning the Azores into an extension of the United States. Portuguese democratic public opinion firmly condemns the increase of separatist activities in the Azores. Portuguese democrats demand that the government liquidate the reactionaries' maneuvers in the archipelago, dismantle foreign military bases in the Azores, and demilitarize the islands.

The paper O DIARIO also says: The Azores are an inseparable part of Portugal in which peace must be reestablished. Such peace will open the way to democratic changes in the archipelago.

'RESTRUCTURING' REGIME GOAL OF SPANISH COMMUNISTS

LD031711Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 1 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[V. Babkin article: "Vital Problems are Being Resolved"]

[Text] The process of bourgeois-democratic reforms which began in Spain with the government of A. Suarez is continuing despite certain difficulties. Recently, despite the opposition of conservative circles and the displeasure of several representatives of the military elite, the Cortes (parliament) approved the law granting temporary autonomy to the Basque country.

We recall that in return for the active support of the republicans in their struggle against the fascist dictator by the population of nearly all the provinces of this northern region, the late Franco deprived it of its autonomy when he came to power and subjected it to political and economic sanctions. Acknowledging the importance of the new law, the local press notes that all the political parties of the region, including the Communist Party, look upon it as an essential step toward obtaining complete autonomy.

Last fall similar status was granted to Catalonia, with certain limitations. The elaboration of a draft law granting autonomy to a southern region of Spain--Andalusia, uniting eight provinces--is being completed. However, the problem of the administrative structure is still far from being fully resolved. The autonomous governments which have been created in these national regions will operate until the adoption of a new constitution for the country which will define their final status.

It should also be noted that, thanks to immense efforts on the part of of democratic parties, several progressive articles and provisions finally cancelling laws from the times of the Caudillo have been included in the recently published draft new Spanish Constitution.

The desire of various strata of the population to achieve genuinely democratic transformations in sociopolitical life by destroying or restructuring the obsolete procedures of the former dictatorial regime is the distinctive feature of the current political atmosphere.

FINNISH CENTER PARTY DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW, ARMENIA

LD031059Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] At the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, a delegation of chairmen of district organizations of the Center Party of Finland, headed by M. Immonen, general secretary of the party, was in the Soviet Union from 23-30 January.

The guests had meetings and talks on questions of interest with the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and International Departments, the Armenian CP Central Committee, the Moskow CPSU Obkom, the All-Union Kolkhoz Council and the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The delegation visited Moskovsksya Oblast and Armenia, familiarized itself with the Soviet people's achievements and the work of CPSU Party organizations in implementing the tasks of economic, cultural and social development set by the 25th Party Congress, and visited kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The delegation returned to Finland on 31 January.

SOVIET-SWEDISH SOCIETIES' COOPERATION PLAN SIGNED

LD291612Y Moscow TASS in English 1433 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Stockholm, January 29, TASS--A plan of cooperation of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the USSR-Swedish Society and the Union of "Sweden-Soviet Union" Societies for 1978 was signed here today. The plan envisages further widening of cooperation of the societies, including the exchange of printed matter, exhibitions, films, trips of delegations and tourist groups and holding of joint functions devoted to major events in the life of both countries. The Union of "Sweden-Soviet Union" Societies prepares to widely observe in 1978 the Lenin Memorial Day, the Soviet Constitution's day, the 61st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and a number of other important dates. The signing of the annual plans of cooperation has become a good tradition in the activity of the societies of both countries.

PDRY PREMIER, DELEGATION MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, END VISIT

Brezhnev Meets PDRY Premier

LD031026Y Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev today received in the Kremlin 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani], member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organisation-National Front, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, who is on an official friendly visit in the USSR.

Soviet-South Yemeni relations and prospects of their further development, the situation in the Middle East, in the Horn of Africa and some other important international problems were discussed during the conversation that passed in an atmosphere of friendship, frankness and mutual understanding. During the exchange of opinions note was made of the community of views on the questions under discussion.

Leonid Brezhnev and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed satisfaction with the successful development of friendly relations and all-round fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Both countries' determination was emphasized to continue joint efforts in order to perfect and deepen the mutually beneficial cooperation between the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Speaking on behalf of the leadership of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the National Front and the South Yemeni people as a whole, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed cordial gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet government and the peoples of the Soviet Union for the support and assistance being given to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. He said that great significance is attached in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to further development and consolidation of all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union.

In discussing international issues, particular attention was paid to the Middle East situation which has become complicated again, as a result of separate negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

The Soviet Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen are unanimous in that these talks are damaging to the struggle of the Arab peoples for the liquidation of the aftermaths of the Israeli aggression and impede the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

Touching on the situation in the area of the Horn of Africa, Leonid Brezhnev and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad noted that the armed conflict in the area plays into the hands of imperialists and reactionary forces which, by way of fanning up fratricidal wars in the African continent, strive to liquidate progressive regimes and suppress the national liberation movements of the African peoples. The Soviet Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen are convinced that a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Horn of Africa will facilitate a development of good-neighborly relations among all states of the area on the basis of non-interference in each other's affairs and mutual respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Leonid Brezhnev and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed mutual satisfaction with the fact that regular meetings between the leading party and state figures of the Soviet Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen promote stronger trust and further development of mutually advantagecus cooperation between the two countries.

Kosygin, Gromyko Meet PDRY Counterparts

LD031408Y Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3 TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin and Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko had a conversation in the Kremlin today with Member of the Poltical Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization--National Front, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani], and Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization--National Front, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PDRY Muhammad a-Salih Muti'.

The exchange of views was continued on questions of bilateral Soviet-South Yemeni relations in the political, economic and other fields and also on topical international problems. The conversation passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Ustinov Talks With Premier

LD031840Y Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU.CC, USSR Defence Minister Marshal Ustinov has met at the USSR Defence Ministry with Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization--National Front, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani].

In the course of the meeting, which was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, questions of mutual interest were discussed.

Seen Off by Kosygin, Others

LD041050Y Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 4, TASS--'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani], member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organisation National Front, the prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, left Moscow for home on February 4. He stayed in the Soviet Union at the head of a government delegation on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport, decorated with the national flags of the PDRY and the Soviet Union, the guest was seen off by Aleksey Kosygin, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR; Kirill Mazurov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR; as well as Ivan Arkhipov, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR; Ministers of the USSR Yevgeniy Alekseyevskiy, Timofey Guzhenko, Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy; Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Semen Skachkov; Deputy Ministers of the USSR Georgiy Korniyenko, Nikolay Ogarkov, Nikolay Ratnikov, Aleksandr Sukharev; the Soviet Ambassador to the PDRY Vladimir Kaboshkin and other officials.

Among the send-off party were 'Abd al-Aziz ad-Dali, the ambassador of the PDRY to the USSR, the heads of diplomatic missions of a number of countries accredited in the USSR.

A guard of honour was lined up on the airfield and the national anthems of the PDRY and the USSR were played. Aleksey Kosygin and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad heard a report by the commander of the guard of honour and reviewed the line-up of the Soviet servicemen.

The distinguished guest was seen off at the airport by representatives of the Moscow people.

The streets of the capital through which the motorcade, escorted by motorcycle outriders, drove were decked out with the state flags of the PDRY and the USSR and the welcoming streamers.

Premier's Statement to TASS

LD041120Y Moscow TASS in English 1103 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 4, TASS--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, [Hasani], member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organisation--National Front, the prime minister of the PDRY, told TASS before leaving the Soviet Union: "Our visit to the Soviet Union was a full success. Its results meet the interests of the two friendly peoples. The success of this visit has been a practical result of the good sentiments which the Soviet Union has toward us, a result of its desire to strengthen friendship between our peoples."

Our conversation with Leonid Brezhnev and our meetings and talks with other leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet Government were held in the spirit of friendship, cordiality, mutual understanding and proletarian internationalism, said 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The exchange of opinions concerning the present international situation in Europe, the Middle East, in the Horn of Africa, in the south of Africa and in other regions, seats of international tension, brought out an identity of views and appraisals, he said. Both sides see the need for giving every support to the process of relaxation of international tensions and for eliminating seats of tension.

It can be said with certainty, said the leader of the South Yemeni delegation, that this visit will have a good effect on various fields of cooperation and will help strengthen and develop friendship between our countries.

Soviet-PDRY Communique

LD042333Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text of joint communique on the visit of PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani to the Soviet Union from 1-4 February]

[Text] At the invitation of the Soviet Government, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization - National Front [UPONF] and PDRY prime minister, paid an official and cordial visit to the Soviet Union from 1 to 4 February 1978. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani was received by Leonid Brezhnev, the secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Aleksey Kosygin, menber of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister; and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau of the UPONF Central Committee and PDRY prime minister held talks in an atmosphere of friendship and complete understanding.

On the PDRY side the talks were attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, building, information, the chief of the general staff of the armed forces, the PDRY ambassador to the Soviet Union and the director of the foreign affairs department.

During the talks, the two sides studied the state and the future of Soviet-PDRY relations. They exchanged opinions on current international issues which concern the two sides. The Soviet leaders spoke about the most important achievements of the Soviet people in the implementation of the historic resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress and about the political and productive enthusiasm with which the Soviet people welcomed the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the adoption of the new USSR Constitution, the basic law of the developed socialis' (?society) which establishes Leninist principles of peace and international cooperation.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad spoke about the achievements of the PDRY workers in the last 10 years and explained the steps taken by the UPONF to establish a vanguard party and strengthen the democratic foundations of PDRY political life and also in the field of economic, social and cultural building. These steps are being taken in accordance with the resolutions of the UPONF Unificationist Congress.

The PDRY side acquainted the Soviet side with the efforts which are being made to realize the unity of the people of Yemen. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for the aid and support to PDRY to strengthen its independence and develop its national economy.

The Soviet leaders highly praised the successes of the PDRY workers and also the political and economic policy followed by the PDRY in its relations with other countries, which are based on principles of peaceful coexistence and internationalist solidarity.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PDRY in implementing the tasks of social and economic development of the PDRY and in strengthening its independence, sovereignty and defense potential. They noted that the commercial and economic cooperation is developing successfully, is assuming a steady and long-term nature and includes all areas important to the development of the national economy and to furthering the well being of the PDRY people.

The two sides believe that strengthening the relations between the CPSU and the UPONF plays an important role in the development of relations between the peoples of both countries in the political, economic, commercial and other fields. The two sides declare their resolve to continue the development of fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PDRY in all fields.

When discussing current issues, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the complete accord of their positions on questions of the struggle for peace and security of nation, for general and complete disarmament and for further relaxation of international tension. They confirmed their desire to develop their cooperation in the international arena, which meets with the interests of all peoples.

The two sides paid particularly attention to the situation in the Middle East. They strongly condemned the separate talks between Egypt and Israel which seriously hamper the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and undermine Arab solidarity and the just struggle waged by the Arab nations for their rights, including the Palestinian Arab people who are lawfully represented by the PLO.

The two sides confirmed that the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territory occupied in 1967 and guaranteeing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people for self-determination and the creation of their own independent national state.

The two sides noted the important, positive role of the December 1977 Tripoli conference in strengthening the unity of the Arab progressive forces and Arab solidarity in the struggle against imperialism, reaction and Zionism. The PDRY side stressed the need to strengthen relations between the Arab countries and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, which constantly render all-round assistance and support to the Arab states in their struggle against imperialism.

The two sides expressed serious concern over the conflict that continues in the area of the Horn of Africa, and they condemned the imperialist intrigues for interfering in the internal affairs of independent states and fanning the flame of enmity among them in order to undermine and overthrow the progressive revolutionary regimes in that part of the world. The two sides call for a settlement of the conflict in the Horn of Africa by peaceful and democratic means on the basis of goodneighborliness and anti-imperialist solidarity, and they support the efforts of the OAU for a settlement of the conflict in accordance with the charter and resolutions of that organization.

The Soviet Union and the PDRY are certain that strengthening peace in the Red Sea area tends to assist the development and strengthening of relations between all the states of this area on the basis of noninterference in each others' internal affairs. They call for turning the Red Sea area, which includes important international sea lanes, into a zone of peace, free of foreign military bases.

The Soviet Union and the PDRY declared their resolve to bring about a complete and final end to colonialism and neo-colonialism and the implementation of the UN declaration on granting independence to the people of colonized countries. They strongly condemned the policy of racial segregation and discrimination of the two racist regimes of the Republic of South Africa and Zimbabwe. They supported the demands to transfer all power to the majority of the population in Zimbabwe and to grant independence to Namibia.

The two sides declared their resolve to continue intensive efforts to consolidate world peace and security and avert the danger of war. They pointed with satisfaction to the positive results in the relaxation of tensions which has become the predominent process in the development of current international relations, and they emphasized the need to spread it to all parts of the world.

They noted the importance of the UN General Assembly declaration of 19 December 1977 concerning entrenching and strengthening international relaxation. The two sides called for the signing, as soon as possible, of an international treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations, for an end to the arms race, a comprehensive and complete ban on nuclear weapons tests, a ban on chemical weapons and on the study and production of new types and mass destruction systems and for efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament.

The two sides call for the convening, as soon as possible, of an international conference on disarmament.

The PDRY Government welcomes the new Soviet proposals to halt the production of nuclear weapons and to gradually reduce nuclear stockpiles and ban all nuclear weapons tests.

The two sides confirmed once again their resolve to work toward further strengthening the UN Organization and enhancing its effectiveness on the basis of a strict observance of the principles and goals of the UN Charter. They support the right of the people to dispose of their national resources and their struggle for the establishment of a new international economic system based on respect for national sovereignty and the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

The two sides consider the nonalined movement an important, positive factor in international politics, and they support the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist trend of its struggle for peace, freedom, equality and social and economic progress of all nations.

The two sides believe that the visit to the Soviet Union of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau of the UPONF Central Committee and PDRY prime minister and the fruitful exchange of views between 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Soviet leaders will assist in the development and strengthening of cordial relations between the Soviet Union and the PDRY and in entrenching the contacts between the CPSU and the UPONF.

Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, member of the Political Bureau of the UPONF Central Committee and PDRY prime minister, expressed deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality he received. He extended an invitation to Aleksey Kosygin to pay an official visit to the PDRY. The invitation was accepted with thanks and the date of the visit will be agreed later.

ALGIERS CONFERENCE ISSUES RESOLUTION ON MIDEAST, AFRICA

LD060840Y Moscow TASS in English 0615 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

["For the Frustration of Imperialist Conspiracy"--TASS headline]

[Text] Algiers, February 5, TASS--The conference of Syria, Libya, Algeria, the PDRY and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) came to a close here. The participants in the conference considered the situation in the Middle East, which grew considerably complicated as a result of the Egyptian leadership's separate talks with Israel. The conferees discussed ways to strengthen inter-Arab solidarity. Worked out a number of measures aimed at consolidating progressive Arab forces in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East. The conferees focused their attention on matters aimed at further rallying the Palestinian resistance movement and rendering an all-round support to it.

The Algiers conference confirmed the danger of As-Sadat's capitulatory course to the vitally important interests of Arab peoples. The conference passed a political resolution which says that the Egyptian leader is acting within the framework of a U.S.-Israeli plan which is aimed at hindering the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, peace which can be insured only on the basis of full withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and satisfaction of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state.

The aim of the plan, the resolution emphasizes, is to snatch away Egypt and some Arab countries from the ranks of the movement of non-alignment and anti-imperialist struggle, to strain their relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, with all national progressive forces.

At present, the resolution points out, the USA and Israel together with As-Sadat are preparing a basis for an Egyptian-Israeli solution to the Middle East problem at the expense of the interests of Arab countries and national rights of the Palestinian people, of whom the Palestine Liberation Organization is the only legitimate representative. The conference reaffirmed the conferees' adherence to the decisions taken in Tripoli and emphasized the need to carry on struggle to frustrate the conspiracy, the aim of which is to impose capitulation on the Arabs, to put off a solution of the Palestinian problem for an indefinite time and perpetuate the occupation of Arab territories. The participants in the conference noted the importance of strengthening inter-Arab solidarity and Arab states' cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community.

The political resolution points out that the Egyptian president has no right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian and Syrian peoples. The resolution calls on the progressive forces of the whole world to increase their support for Syria and the PLO which directly confront the Israeli aggressor.

The conference reaffirmed the striving of the participants to secure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The conference condemned foreign military presence in Oman and expressed support for the [word indistinct] of its people for national independence.

The resolution stresses the necessity of stepping up support to the national liberation movements in Africa, comdemns the imperialist interference in the affairs of the continent and expresses concern in connection with the developments in the Horn of Africa.

'NEW WAFD' PARTY FORMED IN EGYPT; TAKES REACTIONARY STANCE

LD051608Y Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

["Reaction Consolidates Its Positions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Cairo, February 5, TASS--The establishment of the country's fourth political party was officially announced here. It was named "New Wafd". The founders of the party are former statesmen who were in power in the period of the monarchical rule in Egypt as well as the leaders of the "Wafd" Party which was dissolved after the revolution of 1952 and which expressed the interests of big Egyptian bourgeoisie and landlords.

F'uad Sarag Ad Din, a one-time general secretary of the "Wafd" and the minister of the interior in the government under King Faruk, became the leader of the new party.

Local observers note that the "New Wafd" is new only by name, since it will be built on the same ideological principles as the old reactionary party "Wafd".

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA CONFLICT

Western Arms Aid

LD041630Y Moscow in English to Africa 1330 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Vladislav Chernukha commentary]

[Text] A United States State Department spokesman said the other day that the United States was allegedly giving neither direct nor indirect military aid to Somalia. Other NATO countries are also giving assurances that they have never supplied the aggressor with arms and are not going to do so. However, a documentary film shown on Ethiopian television gives the lie to those statements. The cameramen filmed arms and other military equipment captured from the Somali forces. Viewers saw American M-42 tanks and a large number of American rifles. The Ethiopian forces had also captured Italian grenade launchers, various mortars with NATO markings, antitank rifles and ammunition used by the NATO countries.

According to the FRANCE PRESSE news agency, Somalia has also received British made anti-aircraft guns, small arms from France and Swiss air defense warning systems. Weapons are supplied to the Somali Armed Forces either directly or through Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman and certain other countries of the Near and Missle East. Besides this, the Somali regime is being supplied with money. West Germany, for instance, has set aside DM40 million.

A secret agreement on further assistance to Somalia in her attempts to annex part of Ethiopian territory has been worked out at the Washington meeting of five NATO powers--the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy--and in fact Peking has also been included into that company. It has already supplied consignments of weapons, including missiles, to Somalia. Assistance to the aggressors is given with positive aims in view. The NATO powers want to stifle the progressive regime in Ethiopia and turn Somalia into their satellite. And they would also like to use the Horn of Africa as a military-strategic stronghold to fight against the independent countries of Africa, the Near and Middle East.

So it is clear that the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia only plays into the hands of the imperialists and reactionary forces. And the way to stamping out this conflict lies through peace talks. This is the position adopted by the Soviet Union. It was reiterated at the meeting between the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, and Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [Hasani] of Democratic Yemen. During that meeting in Moscow the conviction was expressed that settling the conflict in the Horn of Africa by peace means would help promote goodneighborly relations in all the countries of the area on the basis of noninterference in one another's internal affairs and mutual respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Captured Tank

LD041530Y Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 4, TASS--Reports which are reaching here from eastern and southern areas of Ethiopia point out that the Somali troops that intruded there use on an increasing scale the weapons which reach Somalia through third countries from NATO powers, the USA in the first place.

Those are U.S. small arms, grenade launchers, heavy mortars and tanks. Specimens of the weapons were captured during the Ethiopian troops' counter-offensive in the area of the cities of Harar and Jijiga.

Washington, February 4, TASS--At a press conference a spokesman of the U.S. State Department made a statement which virtually confirms the use of American weapons including tanks by Somalia in fighting against Ethiopia. When answering newsmen's questions whether the U.S. "M-42" tank displayed in Addis Ababa was really captured from the Somalis, he admitted that the USA did not provide the previous regime in Ethiopia with tanks of this type.

Ethiopian Protest Meetings

LD051158Y Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 5, TASS--A wave of meetings and demonstrations of protest against the open interference by the Western NATO member countries in the events in the Horn of Africa has swept the whole of Ethiopia. Thousands of working people took part in them in Shawa, Gondar, Wallaga, Gamo-Gofa and other provinces, the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY reports.

The determination to wage a merciless struggle against home and foreign reaction, to defend Ethiopia's integrity and revolutionary gains was declared by factory and office workers and peasants at a meeting in Harar, the administrative centre of Hararge Province. The attempts of the West and reactionary Arab regimes to internationalise the conflict in the Horn of Africa are the main obstacle in the way of settlement, representatives of various mass organisations stressed in their speeches.

The participants in the meeting declared their readiness to frustrate the plans of international imperialism, which gives wide military aid to the expansionist circles of Mogadiscio for widening the aggressive war against Ethiopia.

Addressing the meeting, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Zeleke Bayene expressed confidence that revolutionary Ethiopia will defeat the enemies of the revolution. The radical socio-economic reforms carried out in the country are a component party of the world revolutionary process, he noted. In close cooperation with the states of the socialist community, the Ethiopian working people are waging a struggle for the construction of a new society.

Reports of EEC Aid

LD031716Y Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 3, TASS--The Common Market member-countries are in a hurry to aid the Somali aggressors waging an expansionist war against Ethiopia.

According to reports from Mogadiscio, talks have ended in the Somali capital today on urgent economic aid to Somalia by the Common Market. An official representative of the EEC declined to say anything about the concrete size and projects of cooperation between the EEC countries and Somalia.

Earlier, the Common Market appropriated 75 million dollars in financial aid to Somalia. This sum is to be used by Somalia over the period from 1976 yo 1980.

'ANTI-SOVIETISM' OF IVORY COAST PRESIDENT CRITICIZED

LD031017Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 5, Signed to Press 26 Jan 78 p 18 LD

[G. Afanasyev article: "What Houphouet-Boigny, President and Planter, Talks About, and What He 'Forgets'"]

[Text] President Houphouet-Boigny, president of the republic of the Ivory Coast, is alarmed. He wants to caution the "unsuspecting" West and "unsophisticated" Africans against the threatening "communist danger"resulting from Russian "machinations" in Africa. In order for his voice to be heard he communicates his alarms in an interview with the Paris weekly PARIS MATCH, which is always ready to publish any anti-Soviet material.

Lamenting about the fact that international detente remains, for the Russians, a "means of deceiving" the Western countries, the Ivory Coast president voices the reason for his chagrin: The influence of the Soviet Union "is expanding today in virtually all African countries with which it has established diplomatic relations." And immediately, not without the hint of an appeal to other countries of that continent to follow his example, Houphouet-Boigny observes that he at one time severed relations with Moscow because "Russian diplomats were trying to enter into close relationships with peasants, workers and young people" and, of course, were inciting the populace "against the regime." True, the president has evidently forgotten that, lacking any proof of "subversive activity" on the part of the cunning Russians, he used a pretext a fraudulent document--a "NOVOSTI bulletin" concocted by Western special services and crammed with provocative materials.

It emerges that he is also displeased with the USSR because the Soviet Union "is not at all interested in promoting the kind of development which will bring Africans happiness." But it is a different matter with the West: The West both provides capital and builds enterprises. However, Houphouet-Boigny, displaying an amazing "forgetfulness", again distorts the facts. The aluminum complex in Guinea and the cement plant in Mali which were built by the Soviet Union in the Ivory Coast's closest neighboring countries are merely one example of USSR aid to the African peoples. Well, and what about the West's notorious "aid"? Foreigners own almost 80 percent of the Ivory Coast's 180 main industrial enterprises, and almost three-fourths of the profits are removed annually from the country. During 1977 the prices of many consumer goods and foodstuffs increased by more than 20 percent. Not that this worries the author of the libellous interview, for he is not simply the president of Ivory Coast, but also a major planter, the owner of villas in France and Switzerland, and an ardent supporter of "free enterprises."

An idea seemed about to flash across Houphouet-Boigny's mind: He is alarmed by the situation in southern Africa. It flashed across his mind only to vanish immediately. It emerges that the evil lies not in the very cruel repressions perpetrated by the racists who use violence to deprive the peoples of the right to independence but in the fact that the patriots of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa could "ask the Soviet Union for weapons." [paragraph continues]

"Therefore we are asking the West," he continued, "to do everything to insure that the situation in southern Africa is settled peacefully." But what this "peacefully" signifies is shown, for instance, by the deal which is being prepared in Rhodesia between Ian Smith and the African puppets Sithole, Muzorewa and Chirau--the deal which J. Nkomo, one of the leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, called "a betrayal."

However, in the opinion of the president-cum-planter, not everything is that bad in Africa. China's policy on that continent sends him into raptures, especially the fact that the "only propaganda that China is conducting at the present time is not propaganda in favor of communism but propaganda against the Soviet Union," After this, is there any reason to be surprised that Houphouet-Boigny's emissaries are extremely frequent and welcome guests in Peking? As the Beirut newspaper AL-NIDA' wrote, "It is easy to see that the basis on which such countries as the Ivory Coast... and China come together is anti-Sovietism."

And so the growing prestige of the Soviet Union in the independent states of Africa is not to the liking of President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, since the USSR's policy is one of internationalism and active support for the national liberation struggle of the peoples against imperialism and neocolonialism. However, what can be expected, apart from wretched attempts at slander, from a figure who has given over his country to the power of foreign capital, who once supported the Biafran splittists, who was the first to oppose the government of independent Angola, who applauded the foreign military intervention in Zaire at the time of the popular uprising in Shaba Province, who advocates a "dialog" with the racists, and who even meets in secret with the butcher Vorster? The path for all betrayers of the progressive, democratic and national liberation forces invariably leads to camp of the anti-Soviets. Houphouet-Boigny is no exception.

ANNIVERSARY OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE NOTED

LD031052Y Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 03 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, February 3 TASS--TASS correspondent Valentin Raikerus reports:

On February 4 the Angolan people are celebrating a glorious date in their history. Seventeen years ago, on February 4, 1961, an armed struggle of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) against the 500-years-long Portuguese colonial rule began with an assault of the Sao Paulo prison in the colonialist-occupied Luanda. That courageous and long struggle which presently became countrywide was crowned with a proclamation of the People's Republic of Angola [PRA] on November 11, 1975.

Ordeals befell the young independent state. International imperialism, regarding the establishment of progressive Angola as a serious threat to its interests and a dangerous example for the oppressed peoples of Africa's south, launched an armed aggression against it. Regular troops of the racist-ruled Republic of South Africa and detachments of foreign mercenaries of the USA, Britain and other Western countries--members of NATO were sent to aid the Angolan anti-national groupings directed by CIA agents.

But the people of Angola, closely rallied around their militant vanguard--the MPLA--gave a vigorous rebuff to the attacks of the united forces of reaction. The Angolan people, with an all-round fraternal help and support from the Soviet Union, Cuba and other countries of the socialist community and all progressive forces of the world, won a convincing victory over the aggressors.

Having done away with foreign intervention and having taken a socialist way of development, Angola started carrying out radical soci-economic transformations. A state control was established over the leading branches of the economy. Enterprises of the metal-working, textile, and cement industry, and fishery companies, sugar and coffee plantations have been nationalized. The first state-run farms and cooperatives have been set up in the countryside. Banks have been brought under state control. A universal free education and medical service have been introduced for the first time in the country's history.

The first congress of the MPLA became a major event on the road of building a new Angola. It not only finally and irrevocably confirmed Angola's socialist choice but also set up the MPLA-Worker's Party.

The ties of the PRA's fraternal friendship and cooperation with the countries of the socialist community grow stronger with every passing year. They are based on the community of goals and interests in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism. The treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of Angola, which was signed in October 1976, serves as a firm basis of Soviet-Angolan relations.

ANGOLAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WARNS 'PROVOCATEURS'

LD060909Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Volkov dispatch: "Warning to Provocateurs"]

[Text] Luanda, 1 February--The armed forces of Ziare and the Republic of South Africa and splittist gangs of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda--traitors to the Angolan people maintained by the aforesaid countries--have made more than 30 provocative attacks on the People's Republic of Angola [PRA] in the past 4 months. There have been a large number of casualties among the civilian population as a result of bombing, artillery shelling and attacks on PRA population centers. A PRA Defense Ministry communique published here states that the escalation of these barbarous actions on the part of Ziare, the Republic of South Africa and their minions is further proof of their attempts to destablize the situation in the country and to hinder the peaceful creative labor of the Angolan people. The communique also points out that the crimes being committed against the Angolan working people be defenders of imperialism's interests on the African Continent attest that the diplomatic initiatives which they are undertaking allegedly for the normalization of relations with Angola can only be regarded as demogogic diversionary maneuvers.

The PRA Defense Ministry warns the provocateurs that a worthy rebuff will be dealt to any aggressive actions.

REMARKS BY PRETORIA'S BANTU AFFAIRS MINISTER 'DEMAGOGIC'

LD032226Y Moscow TASS in English 2133 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

["Racialists Wriggling Out"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksandr Bokhonko writes:

The racialist Pretoria rulers are trying to smooth over the "disadvantageous impression" produced on world public by the massacres of opponents of apartheid in the South African Republic. Particularly now that the U.N. Security Council is discussing the question of adopting economic and other effective sanctions against the South African racialists. Former minister of the interior and now Minister of Bantu Development and Administration Mulder thinks he has found the answer. Maybe you think Mr Mulder declared for cancelling the racialist apartheid practices which he so mercilessly put into life when holding the post of minister of the interior? Nothing of the kind. Speaking in an interview broadcast over South African radio, he declared that the time has come to replace the terms "apartheid" and "Bantu" as arousing negative associations among the "blacks" with the other term of "plural democracy."

As soon as the term is changed, various national groups of the population will have their own political system on the basis of "self-determination", he said. Then, in his opinion, the present policy of the authorities will not arouse "negative association" and this, as it is easy to see, will enable them to pursue their old policy.

In all evidence nothing goes right with the racialists, if they are forced to engage themselves in such verbal balancing acts. But one will only ask whom can such subterfuges deceive. Such demagogic tricks of the racialists will never turn the racialists into democrats.

SAMORA MACHEL ADDRESSES MOZAMBIQUE WORKERS ON PARTY

LD042244Y Moscow TASS in English 1828 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, February 4, TASS-Samora Machel, chairman of the FRELIMO party, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, [word indistinct] the leading role of the party in the national reconstruction process and its devotion to the Marxist-Leninist teaching.

Speaking at a meeting of Maputo workers, he pointed to the importance of the campaign which has been started in the country to admit new members to the party. Samora Machel called on workers, peasants, servicemen, representatives of revolutionary intelligentsia and students to take most active part in the discussion of the nominated candidates.

The president pointed to the necessity to hasten the setting up of primary party organisations at all levels: At enterprises, educational establishments, hospitals, institutions and military units. Local organisations that are inseparably linked with the people are called upon to cultivate a spirit of collectivism, to promote a wide participation of working people in discussion and practical realisation of national development tasks, Samora Machel said. The people, the president emphasised, must become the true masters of the people's democratic state of ours.

SRI LANKA'S PRIME MINISTER ASSUMES PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES

LD041652Y Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Colombo, February 4, TASS--Junius Richard Jayewardene, 72, prime minister, the leader of the ruling United National Party, today became the new president of the Republic of Sri Lanka. He retains the post of prime minister, too.

A presidential rule with authority to exercise the executive power was introduced in the country since January 1, 1978, in accordance with the second amendment to the country's constitution, adopted by the National State Assembly (parliament) in October last year. The amendment envisages that the incumbent prime minister becomes the president for a six-year term and that subsequent presidents will also be elected by the people for a six-year term.

INDIRA GANDHI'S GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

LD031935Y Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 3, TASS--A group led by former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that quitted the Indian National Congress (INC) was recognized today by the Electoral Commission as a new national party of India. It will be called the Indian National Congress (I) or Congress (I) for short. The new party has decided to participate in the coming elections for the legislative assemblies of five states to be held on February 25, as well as in the elections for the legislative assembly in the union territory of Arunchal Pradesh and has already nominated its candidates.

INDIAN CP LEADER GUPTA URGES LEFT, DEMORACTIC UNITY

LD031245Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Delhi, 30 January, TASS--The present political situation in India favors the creation in the country of a united front of left and democratic forces, stated Bupesh Gupta, secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party on India [CP] and leader of the CPI faction in the upper chamber of parliament. In an interview to the weekly, he said that a unique growth in the masses' political awareness is now discernible which is reflected in the activation of their struggle for their rights. Workers and peasants, teachers and students and state employees and doctors, advocating radical socioeconomic reforms, are taking part in the struggle. However, the weakness of this movement lies in the absence of the necessary unity in the camp of left and democratic forces. A number of political parties expressing the interests of the working people remain disunited, as before. The workers' and communist movement in India would have made great gains if all these parties and forces had created a united front capable of leading the common struggle of the working people for their interests. The PCI, which is making a considerable effort to rally the left and democratic forces, advocates precisely this, Bupesh Gupta stressed.

SRV STATEMENTS REJECT U.S. ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ENVOY

LD042104Y Moscow TASS in English 2114 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, February 4, TASS--A statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concerning the demand of the U.S. Department of State that permanent representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations Dinh Ba Thi should leave the United States was circulated here today.

The statement says that on February 3, 1978, a representative of the U.S. Department of State officially demanded that permanent representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi should leave the United States for the reason that he allegedly abused the privileges involved in the stay in the United States that were set out in the agreement on the United Nations headquarters of 1947.

The statement notes that this happened only three days after the U.S. Government had instituted proceedings on the so-called case on intelligence activity, arresting a U.S. citizen and a Vietnamese residing in the United States and falsely accusing diplomats of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of being involved in this "intelligence activity".

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully rejects these false accusations of the U.S. authorities against members of the staff of the permanent representation of Vietnam at the United Nations. The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam declares that Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi, just as all members of the staff of the permanent representation, has nothing to do with the activity mentioned by the U.S. authorities.

This action of the U.S. Government is without precedent in the United Nations' history. It grossly violates the status of the permanent representation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations and also jeopardizes normal activity of representatives of other countries' United Nations members.

The actions of the United States Government show again that frequent statements of the Carter administration about the wish to look into future and to normalize relations with Vietnam are mere verbiage.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam strongly protests against the United States Government's abusing the rights of the country where the United Nations headquarters is situated and creating serious obstacles to the normal activity of the country, a United Nations member. The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the statement says, demands that the United States Government should immediately stop actions insulting the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the people of Vietnam and should ensure safety and normal conditions for work of members of the staff of the permanent representation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations.

Hanoi, February 4, TASS--Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Duy Trinh sent a message to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

The United States Government, the message says, has undertaken an extremely serious action by falsely accusing the head of the permanent representation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the United Nations and demanding under this pretext that he should leave the United States.

This action of the United States Government creates a serious precedent in relations of the United States with representations of different countries at the United Nations. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam believes that it is necessary to take measure that would help ensure normal activity of representations of different countries at the United Nations, the message says.

VNA DENIAL OF U.S. ALLEGATIONS ABOUT SPIES CITED

LD031635Y Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, February 3, TASS--The VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY described as absolutely groundless the allegations by the U.S. Justice Department as regards the involvment of diplomatic officials of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in "intelligence activity" in connection with the recent arrest in the United States of American Humphrey, a staff member of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), and Vietnamese Truong Dinh Hung, who has resided in the USA for many years. They are charged with stealing secret documents of the U.S. Administration. The VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY is authorised to declare that this a crude fabrication aimed at undermining the international prestige of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the statemet by the VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY stresses, energetically protests against and refutes the fabrications by the U.S. authorities. Such actions run counter to the statements repeatedly made by the U.S. administration about the wish to normalise relations between the two countries.

28TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRV-USSR RELATIONS NOTED

OW021419Y Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1000 GMT 30 Jan 78 OW

[Grammatikov commentary]

[Excerpts] Today, 30 January, is the 28th anniversay of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam. This event is an important landmark in the development of Soviet-Vietnamese friendship.

The Soviet Union, Vietnam and the other socialist countries are greatly concerned about the consolidation of peace throughout the world. Our two parties and countries are resolved to do everything possible to affirm the principles of peaceful coexistence and equal cooperation among nations and to oppose the plots of imperialism and its lackeys aimed at seriously hampering international programs.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam strongly advocate peaceful resolution of conflicts between nations on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, nonencroachment on border areas and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Our two countries attach great importance to the continued strengthening of international solidarity, unity among the communist and workers parties, and unity of action of all forces struggling for peace and progress.

On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations between our two countries, the Soviet people convey their warm greetings to the Vietnamese people and wish them many new achievements in the building of a peaceful and prosperous Socialist Vietnam.

ALARMING MILITARIST TRENDS BECOMING PROMINENT IN JAPAN

LD031305Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[G. Krasin article: "Alarming Trends"]

[Text] Several books written by former generals in Japan's Self Defense Forces have recently appeared in Tokyo bookshops. They give wide dissemination to an exchange of opinions by figures well-known in military circles on questions of wartime legislation, which the Self Defense Agency [SDA] is developing.

In the event of imaginary or, more precisely, far-fetched "extraordinary circumstances," they demand the immediate establishment of the military's legal right to mobilize radio, communications and transportation facilities, confiscate private land and buildings, and create a civil defense system and unlimited support for U.S. forces, not only by granting them complete freedom in the use of military bases but also by providing them with logistical support. They also seek the right to begin "ideological mobilization" of the population

"The content of these books," AKAHATA has written, "is worthy of attention, since the general idea of war legislation is set out in them considerably more precisely than in done by the SDA." The fact that the SDA is drawing up laws in the event of war has been confirmed by the head of the military department, who admitted that a study of measures to be adopted in the event of "an extraordinary situation" has been initiated on his instructions.

The heightened interest in Japan in the draft war legislation is by no means a coincidence. It reflects and confirms the general development of Japanese politics, in which military aspects are beginning to become increasingly blatant.

Currently, Japan's "Self-Defense Forces" number 262,000 men; 180,000 in the ground forces, 43,000 in the air force and 39,000 in the navy. The Japanese Army is equipped with modern aircraft, tactical missiles, tanks, submarines, destroyers and other combat equipment. Military expenditure from 1960 through 1970 more than tripled, reaching 569.5 billion yen. In 1977-1981 12.6 trillion yen, or 2.5 times more than was spent in the previous 5-year period, will be allocated for the requirements of the Japanese Armed Forces.

Newspapers have reported that plans for a further buildup of Japan's military strength are contained in a secret report prepared by the Nomura Scientific Research Institute with the participation of the Self Defense Council and the SDA. Its authors call for further strengthening the Japanese-American military alliance and a substantial increase in the potential of the "Self-Defense Forces," primarily the navy and air force, and demand new allocations for military requirements.

The first step in implementing these plans has been taken. The Japanese Self Defense Council recently adopted a decision to purchase 100 F-15 fighter-bombers and 45 P-30 antisubmarine aircraft from the United States for 1.1 trillion yen. The deliveries of U.S. equipment will begin this year.

Military circles are attempting, not always publicly but methodically and persistently, to expand their influence in the political life of the country. The plans submitted for converting the SDA into a defense ministry, in particular, are a move in that direction.

Thus, it is an issue of certain Japanese circles who desire to discard the constitutional principle of permanent renunciation of war and the threat or use of armed force as a means of resolving international disputes. The constitutional provision which curbs Japanese development of ground, naval and air forces, as well as other means of warfare, has also virtually disappeared.

The strengthening of "Self-Defense Forces" parallels the expansion of the military alliance between Japan and the United States. The Pentagon is demanding that Japan play a more significant role within the framework of the Japanese-American "security pact." As G. Brown, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated, "Japan is the most important ally of the United States in that region and is the key to U.S. policy in Asia. Without the bases granted by Japan it would be difficult for us to maintain our positions." For his part K. Kitamura, former squadron commander in the Self-Defense Forces, has stated bluntly that the immediate task of the Japanese Navy is "to insure freedom of action for the U.S. 7th Fleet." Such "defense cooperation" shifts some of the U.S. military's tasks onto the shoulders of Japan and increases the risk of drawing it into the Pentagon's military actions.

The so-called Korean article, which is contained in the Japanese-American statement of 1969 and has been repeatedly reaffirmed since, is an important feature regulating relations between the partners in the bilateral military bloc. The statement maintains that Japan cannot reject a U.S. request to start combat operations from U.S. military bases deployed on its territory in the event of "extraordinary circumstances" arising on the Korean Peninsula. Japanese officials admit that the United States is applying increasing pressure on the government by demanding an increase in defense expenditures. The United States is depending on defraying part of the cost of maintaining the U.S. Armed Forces quartered in the Japanese islands at Tokyo's expense. These costs, which apply to the so-called maintenance of Japanese security, amount to about $5 billion; that is, about the same as Japan currently spends on military requirements. It is apparent from statements by some military figures that the Japanese Government is planning to satisfy U.S. demands. This means that an additional burden in financing, although partial at present, the presence of 45,000 U.S. soldiers and officers in the country is laid on Japanese taxpayers.

Japanese weapon manufacturers are also seeking an increase in strength of the Self-Defense Forces. The monopolies are pushing the Japanese Government onto the dangerous path of militarization. The fact that Japanese military circles are declaring themselves in favor of using Self-Defense Forces outside the country's boundaries must cause concern. They state, for instance, that Japanese-American operations provided for by the "security pact" could be mounted within a radius of several hundred miles from Japan. As AKAHATA has written, the desire of militarist circles to transform the Self-Defense Forces into an aggressive army can be seen quite clearly behind those words. The course toward militarization and the consolidation and expansion of the military alliance with the United States is causing profound alarm in Japanese democratic circles. The Japanese Peace Supporters Congress held in Tokyo adopted a declaration resolutely condemning the policy of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which is aimed at strengthening the Japanese-American military alliance and is leading to greater Japanese economic dependence on the United States.

The militarist trends can have nothing in common with the national interests of the Japanese people. They are fraught with grave complications for the international situation in the Far East.

ACADEMICIAN SEDOV: COSMOS-954 MAY HAVE BEEN IN COLLISION

LD041405Y Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 4, TASS--Follows an interview of Academician Leonid Sedov with a TASS correspondent:

Question. On January 25 this year, TASS reported that the satellite Cosmos-954 ceased to exist. Will you comment on this report?

Answer. As it was said in the TASS announcement, the Cosmos-954 entered the dense layers of the atmosphere in the afternoon Moscow time, on January 24 this year and ceased to exist over the northern part of Canada. The satellite was put into orbit around the earth in the Soviet Union on September 18, 1977 in accordance with our programme for the exploration and use of outer space. To provide a power supply for its onboard systems, the satellite had on board a small nuclear reactor which used ordinary enriched uranium-235. The satellite's power unit was not explosive. Moreover, it was designed in such a way as to ensure its destruction and burning up on entry in the dense layers of the atmosphere.

On January 6 this year, for reasons not yet clear, a sudden depressurisation of the satellite took place beyond the zone of visibility of our facilities for tracking space objects. Inasmuch as the process of depressurisation was a fast one, it may be assumed that the satellite collided in flight with some other object of natural or artificial origin. As a result, the satellite's onboard systems went out of operation, it lost orientation and began uncontrollable descent. Repeated attempts to bring it back under control unfortunately produced no results.

The flight of the Cosmos-954 was constantly kept under observation which was intensified after its onboard systems went out of operation. The coordination-computing centre was instructed to determine with as great precision as possible the expected time and place of its entry in the dense layers of the atmosphere. In case it was found that it might cease to exist over the territory of some foreign state it was meant to notify the latter in advance.

It was expected according to forecasts, that the Cosmos-954 would enter the dense layers of the atmosphere and cease to exist over an area of the open sea in the world ocean in the afternoon on January 24. Calculations made by its last orbits within the range of our tracking facilities showed that if individual parts of the satellite do not burn up fully in the atmosphere because of its emergency state [as received] and reach the earth, they might fall on the high seas in the area of the Aleutian Islands. The U.S. government was kept informed accordingly.

Immediately after it was learned that the satellite ceased to exist over the northern part of Canada, the Soviet Government contacted the Government of Canada and offerred it urgent help with elininating the consequences of a possible fall of individual parts of the satellite on Canadian territory and for evacuating them. The Canadian Government was informed about the satellite, its power unit, as well as measures that might have to be taken in case the remnants of the satellite were discovered.

It was stressed that if individual disintegrated parts of the satellite still reach the earth's surface, only limited local pollution may occur, and only at the places of fall, which would require ordinary deactivation measures. In case of discovery in Canadian territory of any objects that could be considered parts of the satellite Cosmos-954 the Soviet Government expressed readiness to send immediately Soviet specialists to Canada for identifying them.

Thus, in accordance with the principles and letter of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space, we have done and continue to do everything we can to prevent the Cosmos-954 disaster from causing any complications in our relations with other states. There are continued regular contacts with the Canadian authorities on questions arising in connection with the termination of the existence of the Cosmos-954.

As it became known, the search in the area over which the satellite ceased to exist is being conducted by Canadian specialists with the assistance of U.S. specialists. The results of the search are not yet known to us. Neither do we have information on the results of observation of the passage of the satellite through the dense layers of the atmosphere, which would make it possible to judge the circumstances connected with its ceasing to exist. Such an information is quite vital to us, since at the final stage of its flight the satellite was outside Soviet observation means' visibility zone.

Question. How do you appriase comments abroad on the TASS report dated January 24 this year?

Answer. Many statesmen and mass media of foreign states appreciated the TASS report and regarded the Cosmos-954 satellite mishap as an incident the possibility of which, unfortunately, is not ruled out completely in the period when man's space exploration endeavours are in many respects of experimental nature.

There also emerged, however, such commentators who are trying to present the Cosmos-954 satellite as a certain mythical threat to mankind and, on the strength of this, level absurd accusations at the Soviet Union. There appeared allegations that the satellite was nearly a flying nuclear bomb. One big agency issued a sensaticnal report that the satellite's nuclear power unit was allegedly designed to power a laser gun.

The absurdity and harmfulness of such pronouncements are obvious. The Soviet Union strictly implements the provisions of the 1967 treaty on principles governing the activities of states in exploration and use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies. The treaty bans the orbiting of any objects with nuclear weapons or other types of weapons of mass destruction.

There were not and could not be, of course, any weapons on board the Cosmos-954 satellite. As for the availability of a small nuclear power unit on board the satellite, a possibility of putting such a device into an earth orbit is quite permitted by international law. Satellites with such power units were more than once launched into space earlier both by the USSR and the USA. The necessity of using nuclear power units to power space objects is obvious, because this source of energy is the most promising and effective one for ensuring long-duration space flights.

It goes without saying that in developing nuclear power units for space objects all the necessary measures are taken to ensure radiation safety both during their normal functioning and in emergency situations. Such measures were also envisaged in our satellite Cosmos-954. It should be pointed out that the termination of the existence of the Cosmos-954 over the northern part of Canada did not create any danger for the population of the area. Nor was there any danger for people during other emergency falls of satellites with nuclear power units on board, known in world astronautics.

In conclusion I would like to say that those who circulate absurd rumors about the Cosmos-954 and who are trying to cash in on them, undermine the basic principles of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space and are doing serious harm to the cause of strengthening mutual trust and understanding between the peoples.

The Soviet Union, which has dedicated all its space achievements to all mankind, invariably stresses that outer space should serve to bring the peoples of different countries and continents closer together.

DETAILS OF SALYUT-6 REFUELING FROM PROGRESS-1 GIVEN

LD031242Y Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

["Unique Experiment Completed"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moxcow, February 3, TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from mission control centre: Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko today carried out the concluding stage of operations to refuel the Salyut-6 station with fuel delivered to orbit by the automatic freight ship Progress-1.

During the morning radio communication session the crew reported that the preparatory operations to refuel the station with the oxidizer were being carried out in accordance with schedule.

After control checks of the airtightness of the fuel lines and containers of the Progress-1 transport ship and the Salyut-6 station, the cosmonauts sent out commands from control panels for the commencement of operations to fill the station's tanks with the oxidizer. The refuelling process was controlled by the crew and specialists from mission control centre.

A unique technical experiment involving the refueling of a manned orbital station was carried out for the first time in the practice of space flights. All the instruments and assemblies of the new system of refueling in space performed flawlessly at all the stages of the operation--checking out the airtightness of the refueling lines and the tanks of the transport ship and the space ship, pumping out compressed gas from the fuel tanks of the station by means of compressors, and filling the station's tanks with fuel components.

In the course of the preparatory operations and the refueling, the cosmonauts worked with precision and close interaction with the specialists from mission control centre, ensured the orbital station's refueling within the scheduled time period.

The crew of the orbital space complex is continuing its programme of scientific-technical studies and experiments.

The state of health of the cosmonauts is good and they feel well.

'Brilliant Engineering Operation'

LD031352Y Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

["The Way To Prolong Salyut Station's Flight"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov writes: The last and most labour-consuming discharge operation--to refuel the station and provide it with oxidizer--has been completed at the space port at noon today.

The reserves of fuel and other equipment are quite sufficient for an active continuation of the Salyut-6 flight. Each space launching, however, brings in it, apart from practical goals, new experimental tasks. In this sense the manned expedition of 1977-1978 is a special one. A new station with two docking units was tested at work for the first time. A possibility of the conduct of repair work by the cosmonauts in the open space was tried out. The feasibility and expediency of combining the crews of two delivery spaceships on board an orbital station was proved.

The tasks of the Progress-1 are likewise directly connected with the perfection and raising of the effectiveness of space flights.

The experiment in refuelling the orbital station and providing it with new scientific equipment is a practical reply of Soviet engineers, technicians, cosmonauts to the main objective in the cosmonautics, is a way to the orbital station's long life.

The very refuelling of the orbital station is a brilliant engineering operation which will enrich the practice of the world cosmonautics with valuable experience. An original automatic system, fitted out with "logic" and actuating mechanisms, was used to pump fuel from the freight spaceship into the station. It is immune against errors, it was duplicated many times, and can handle not one tanker, but a few.

The cosmonauts are yet to blow off the pipelines along the plane of the docking units. This must be done so that in separation of the freight spaceship from the station the remains of fuel and the oxidizer should not contaminate the environment and should not sink on the body of the station.

Report on Cosmonauts

LD041222Y Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 4 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Flight control centre, February 4, TASS--Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been orbiting the earth for eight weeks now. Yesterday the Soviet cosmonauts finished unloading the transport ship Progress-1 and refuelling the Salyut-6 station. In the afternoon the crew of the piloted space complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 carried out a new series of technical tests under the "resonance" experiment program. The cosmonauts have already accomplished four series of such tests with a different arrangement of the orbital complex. The aim of the experiment is to study the dynamic characteristics of a complex orbital system and to appreciate stresses on its structural elements.

The crew members of the orbital complex are having an active-rest day today. They do exercises on the veloergometre and the running track, check on the onboard systems of the station and the ships, work with onboard documentation and relax. According to reports by the crew members and telemetred information, the onboard systems of the space complex are in normal condition and the cosmonauts feel well, the flight of the piloted orbital research complex continues.

Space Complex Trajectory Corrected

LD051404Y Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 5, TASS--A Tass correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The joint flight of the manned space complex has been going on for two weeks. The complex consists of the Salyut-6 orbital station, the Soyuz-27 spaceship and the Progress-1 automatic delivery spacecraft.

The program of today's working day of the Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko envisaged a correction of the trajectory of the movement of the orbital complex. To carry out a planned two-impulse manoeuvre, the cosmonauts twice effected the orientation of the orbital complex, after which the propulsion unit of the Progress-1 spacecraft was switched on.

In the afternoon the crew performed another cycle of tests under the "Resonance" experiment program.

According to telemetry data and the cosmonauts' reports, the onboard systems of the orbital station and both space craft are functioning normally. The inside microclimate parameters are as follows: temperature is 20 degrees centigrade, and pressure is 822 millimetres of the mercury column.

The cosmonauts are feeling well.

Progress-1 Separates From Salyut-6

LD060946Y Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

["Progress-1 in Independent Flight"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 6, TASS--A special TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre: After the completion of the joint flight programme the automatic freight transport ship Progress-1 separated from the orbital complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 at 8 hours 53 minutes Moscow time today.

During a 15-day joint flight, the crew of the research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 accomplished a great amount of work. The Progress-1 was unloaded, the used equipment of the Salyut-6 onboard systems was dismantled and carried over aboard the ship Progress-1, while the equipment and apparatus brought in from the latter were installed in their assigned places of operation or storage.

The crew refueled in space the fuel system of the Salyut-6 orbital station from the containers of the Progress-1. The orbital complex was filled additionally with air from the containers of the transport ship. The orbit of the research complex as corrected with the help of the propulsion units of the Progress-1.

After completing all the planned operations and experiments the automatic freight transport ship Progress-1 was separated from the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 complex. The Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko controlled the process of undocking and moving away of the freight ship.

The transport ship Progress-1 is now in automatic flight during which tests and checks-ups of a number of onboard systems will be continued. After the completion of the programme of autonomous flight the Progress-1 will be slowed down. It will enter the dense layers of the atmosphere and cease to exist.

So the unique space experiment involving the delivery of various cargoes, including fuel for propulsion units, to a piloted orbital station with the help of an automatic transport ship has been carried out successfully.

During a joint flight of many days the systems of servicing orbital piloted complexes with the help of automatic freight transport ships was checked.

The crew of the orbital scientific complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 continues its research and experiments under the flight programme.

The Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko feel well.

'BEREZINA' EXERCISE BEGINS IN BELORUSSIA, FOREIGN OBSERVERS PRESENT

First Maneuvers Completed

LD050958Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Our special correspondents report from the area of the "Berezina" troop exercises: By this morning subunits and units drawn into the exercises had entered the staging area. They were today given the names "northern" and "southern." Mikhail Mitrofanovich Zaytsev, colonel-general of armored troops and commander of the "Red Banner" Belorussian Military District, has been entrusted with the duty of conducting the exercises.

The "Berezina" exercises are ordinary, planned ones but they are being staged on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces. In the units and subunits, meetings and party and Komsomol gatherings have been held. The units and subunits completed their first maneuvers with a rating of "excellent."

Troops Greeted

LD052258Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Special correspondents (?Konstantin Leshchinskiy) and Aleksandr Krutov report from the Berezina military exercises region: During dusk, subunits and units of "northern" and "southern" troops are completing the measures necessary to successfully fulfill the tasks set. The troops have been concentrated; machines and people are shielded from the cold. The night promises to be cold and (?windy).

Thousands of people came to meet the columns of tanks, carriers and infantry vehicles. These cordial meetings testify as nothing else to the tie between the people and the army which will soon mark its glorious 60th anniversary. "Party and political work has now widely spread in units and subunits. The recollections of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev 'Malaya Zemlya' published in the NOVYY MIR journal and in the papers have become an abundant source of experience of such work.

Foreign Observers Arrive

LD06C850Y Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 6, TASS--Exercises of troops of the Belorussian Military District, code-named "Berezina", began today in the area of Minsk, Orsha, Polotsk.

In accordance with the provisions of the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the USSR sent notifications to this effect to the states, parties to the Helsinki conference. Observers from Belgium, GDR, FRG, Netherlands, Poland, United States, France, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland will be present at the exercises. [Moscow TASS in English at 1118 GMT on 6 February reports: "The military observers from Belgium, GDR, FRG, Netherlands, Poland, Britain, Northern Ireland, United States, France, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland arrived in Minsk today.]

The troops have completed the concentration at the forming up places, the newspaper "PRAVDA" reported. The operational situation at the start of the exercises: "The northern troops", having stopped the offensive of the "southern", manoeuvre in forces and equipment, form shock groupings to seize the initiative. The exercises involve ground troops, jointly with air force units. The total strength of troops is about 25,000 men. The exercises are commanded by Colonel-General Mikhail Zaytsev (armour), commander of the troops of the Belorussian Military District.

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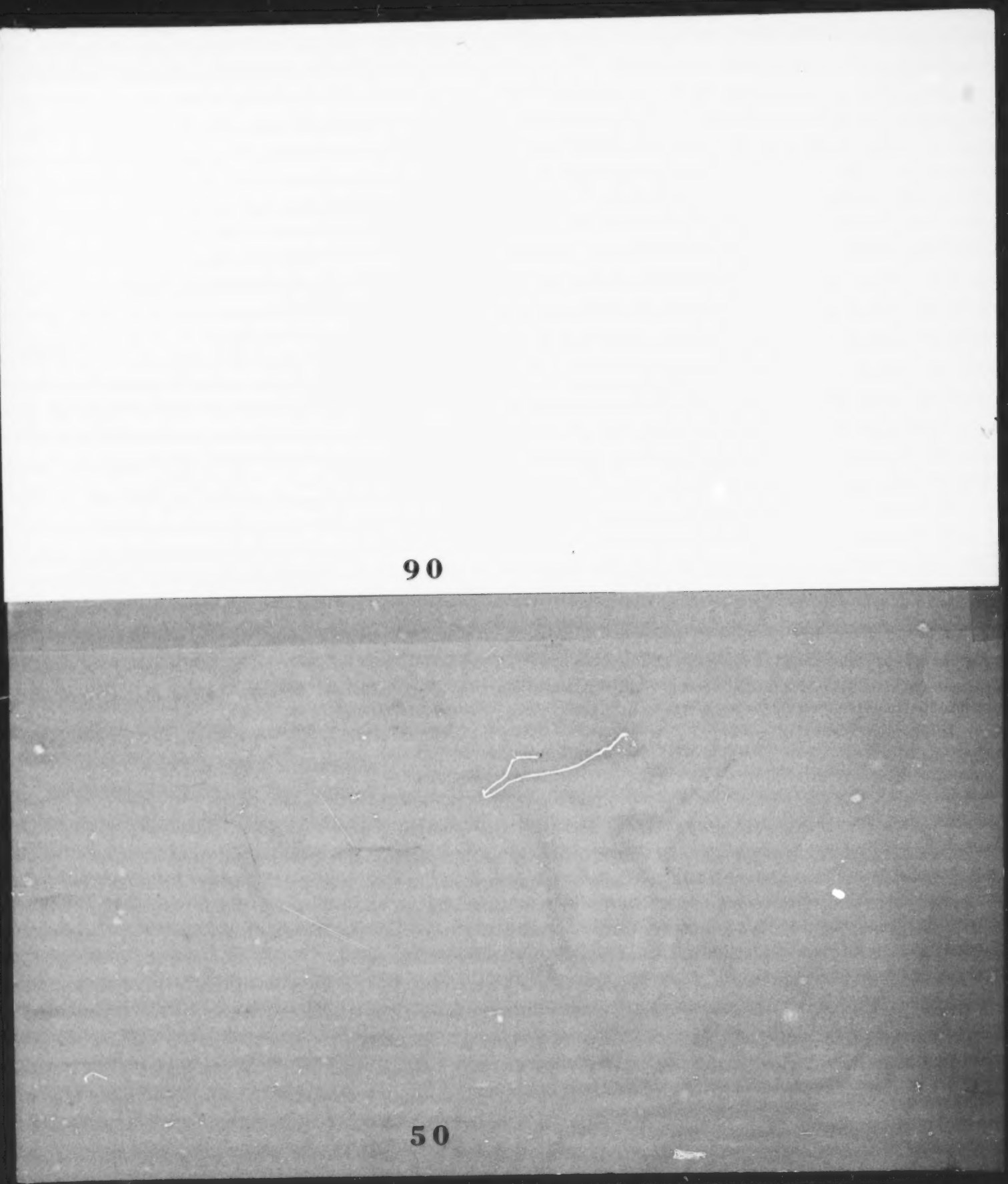
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